

CANNOCK CHRONICLE



Thursday, June 27, 2013

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Page 7



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Page 35



By George!

Hayes lads take on the Casuals at home of FA

Page 106



Upgrades as council to splash the cash

A FURTHER £200,000 will be ploughed into town centres across Cannock Chase under new plans to regenerate the high street.

The district council has agreed to spend the money in Cannock, Heath Hayes, Norton, Canes, Rugeley, Hedgesford and Chadswood as part of its Town Centre Investment Fund for 2013/14.

More than a quarter of the sum - £55,000 - will be spent on Cannock town centre.

It will go towards new flooring and deep cleaning at the Mill Street underpass, an art project at the Beecroft Road underpass, replacing missing and broken paving tiles and additional cycle racks.

Cleaning

New bins and road signs will be installed at shopping centres in Heath Hayes, Norton Canes and Chadswood, where planting and cleaning will also be carried out. In areas of Hedgesford that are not part of the town's £50million regeneration, new bins and road signs will be installed.

Road signs will also be replaced at key access points around town centres.

Councillor Diane Todd, town centre regeneration leader, said: "Cannock Chase Council will continue to invest in the district and give residents a sense of pride in their towns."

Sell-out for Chase gigs

PALOMA Faith and Blondie are set to play sell-out gigs in Cannock Chase Forest this weekend.

Around 10,000 tickets have been snapped up for Forest Live, the second year in succession that the concerts have sold out.

A total of 1,000 Paloma tickets were sold in the first weekend of sales, while Blondie shifted 2,000 in the first weekend.

Paloma performs tomorrow (Friday), with Blondie, supported by The Lightning Seeds, on Saturday.

MANOR BOSSSES IN BID FOR HOSPITAL

HEALTH bosses in Walsall have launched a multi-million pound bid to run Cannock Hospital - only weeks after Wolverhampton officials pitched their own offer.

Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust has submitted its proposals to the administrators of Mid Staffordshire NHS Foundation Trust, who have been tasked with drawing up plans to make Cannock and Stafford Hospitals both financially and clinically viable.

Under the proposals, millions of pounds would be spent upgrading Cannock Hospital.

Patients who live in Cannock but undergo complicated operations at Walsall Manor would receive 'step down care' at the Brunswick Road site.

Richard Kirby, chief executive of Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust, said it was a 'win-win' solution, as it would free up to 30 beds at the Manor while utilising more of Cannock.

Stronger

Currently, Cannock Hospital is 40 per cent under-utilised, while over the past 12 months Manor Hospital has seen a 40 per cent rise in the number of Staffordshire patients it treats, most coming from the Cannock area.

Mr Kirby said: "We are setting out to make the best possible use of the hospital services in Cannock for the people of Cannock."

"We want to deliver as much of the healthcare for the people of Cannock as we can from these facilities."

"Cannock Hospital has stronger connections to local services, together with proper medical staff, and we would work closely with Cannock's GPs."

Under the new proposals, Cannock Hospital would continue to provide day care, outpatient services, diagnostics and elective

by Will Ackermann

orthopaedics. Services would not be moved from Walsall Manor to Cannock Hospital.

The announcement comes after Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust submitted its own proposal.

The Trust Special Administrators have until July 31 to publish a draft report of their plans, after healthcare regulator Monitor granted them a 30-day extension.

Cannock Chase District Council welcomed both submissions.

Council leader Councillor George Adamson said: "Cannock Chase district has significant health needs and these are a top priority for the council."

"Cannock Chase Council's cabinet has formally expressed its full support for Cannock Hospital to be managed as part of Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust and for Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust to also be a local provider of NHS services at this facility."

He added: "The council's cabinet has always been of the view that Cannock Hospital should be retained and managed by the NHS and feels this proposal secures the future of the hospital in a robust manner that is consistent with the public interest."

Parish worker Bales out for teaching job



Kevin Bales from St Augustine's Church who has started a new role at Chancery Primary School in Rugeley

WHEN Kevin Bales starts work as a trainee teacher in Rugeley, his pupils will have to get used to calling him by his full name.

Children at Chancery Primary School know him as the church volunteer who performs biblical dramatisations in their assemblies.

He will step down as parish family worker for Rugeley and Brereton's Anglican churches in August, before starting a year of training at the school, in association with the University of Wolverhampton in September.

Mr Bales, aged 27, of Uttoxeter, said: "I'm excited to be building on what I have been doing for the last three

years. The children I will be teaching and the staff I will be working with I have known for a long time, so I am excited to build on those relationships in a different setting."

"I am looking forward to the challenge that being a teacher brings but I will miss working in all the different schools and meeting all the children and performing."

Impression

St Augustine's Church, on Station Road, will hold a thanksgiving service for Mr Bales on July 21 from 4pm.

Eileen Newman, wife of vicar Rev Preb Michael Newman, said: "The

amount of work he has achieved in three years has been truly phenomenal. He has made a lasting impression on both children and staff, taking imaginative assemblies, teaching the word of God through drama.

"His help with church clubs, JaM club at Etchingham, Treasure Seekers at St Augustine's and Christian club at Hob Hill, as well as the training sessions for helpers, has been extremely useful and thought-provoking."

"His infectious enthusiasm and imagination have inspired many to take part, and the Easter and Christmastime trials have proved a real attraction for both children and adults."

HUNDREDS of free parking spaces will be provided as Brereton Carnival makes its long-awaited return after a 26-year absence.

Stewards will be out in force on temporary car parks at Towers Business Park off Wheathill Road.

Organisers say they expect thousands of families to turn up on July 13.

An appeal to resurrect the event, which ran from 1977 until 1986, was launched last July by the Brereton & Rugeley Association for Community Events (Brace).

The carnival will feature a procession of floats and bands setting off from Hawkins Logistics Yard in Redbrook Lane at midday.

Interest

It will end up at Rugeley Park where the festivities will take place throughout the day. Steve Hammersley of Brace said: "Preparations have been going well."

"We can get quite a lot of cars onto the industrial estate so that should help. We've had huge interest in the carnival."

There will also be a classic car display, music, stilt walkers, jugglers and the Uttoxeter Morris Men and about 40 stalls plus food and refreshments.

Mr Hammersley said the volunteers were still needed to help out along the procession or at Rugeley Park.

Call 07870 147069.

MP in talks on academy

CHASE MP Aidan Burley will next week meet campaigners fighting to save their children's school from becoming an academy.

The Conservative MP will meet parents, teachers and governors at Norton Canes Primary School, in School Road, on Wednesday (July 3).

The Government is looking at replacing the board of governors at the school and at Heath Hayes Primary.

• Petition - Page 20

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NEWS

Joan's work honoured



Soroptimists Carole Holdcroft, left, and Joan Edmunds

A MEMBER of a Cannock group has been honoured for her 30 years of active work with Soroptimist International. Joan Edmunds received a certificate signed by the Federation President of SI Great Britain and Ireland, Pat Black.

Carole Holdcroft, team president of SI Cannock & District, made the presentation at the club's June meeting.

Joan has been involved with all aspects of the club's activities over the 30 years of her membership and is still actively involved in keeping in contact with one of their Friendship Link clubs in Vienna. Joan was delighted to receive the long service certificate.

The club's next event will be their Summer Celebration at Littewood Manor in July. On July 13 members will be at Cannock Carnival where they will have a lively game for children and adults to play as well as information relating to many of their current awareness-raising issues, including trafficking, domestic violence and ovarian cancer.

Purge leads to school slashing its energy bills

A BURNTWOOD school has slashed its energy bills by almost £4,800 thanks to a council scheme. Ridgeway Primary has saved more than £3,450 on gas and £1,330 on electricity over the past nine months.

Staffordshire County Council's climate change officers have worked in partnership with the Carbon Trust to help the Grange Road school achieve the 17 per cent reduction.

Pupils have contributed by carrying out regular checks to find lighting and equipment being used needlessly.

Headteacher Joanne Jelkes said: "I'm very pleased with the savings we've made so far and surprised that we've made them with just a few changes around the school."

Manage

"We identified early on through the scheme that our heating system was outdated and gave us very little control."

"Working with the climate change officers we were able to update our controls allowing us to manage our heating much better, ensuring it is set not to come on when not needed during weekends and holidays."

"On top of this we have now had some LED lighting and occupancy detectors fitted into most of the classrooms. Hopefully, this will save us even more." The

Haunting book challenge

RAVE youngsters can explore a haunted house at Cannock Library next month. By reading any six books they can take part in the 'Creepy House' Summer Reading Challenge and enjoy face painting, ghost hunting, creepy crafts, stories and competitions. The free event takes place at the Manor Avenue library on July 13, from 10am to 3pm, with no booking necessary. For more information call 01543 510365, or visit www.staffordshire.gov.uk/libraries or www.facebook.com/staffordshire.libraries

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Grant aid funds are available

GROUPS in Burntwood are invited to apply for grant aid funding from the town council.

The 2013 Scheme opened on Monday (June 24) and closes on September 16.

Decisions will be announced at a presentation in December. Forms can be requested from the town council office or downloaded from www.burntwood-tc.gov.uk.

The grant aid scheme provides start-up money for new organisations as well as funds to those already operating. Applications from individuals will not be considered.

The organisation must have clearly stated aims and objectives set out in writing; a written Constitution; be able to provide a copy of its latest annual accounts and most recent bank statement and have an account operated by at least two joint signatories.

It must provide a service of benefit to the Burntwood community or to a particular group of residents.

For more details, contact the town clerk at Unit 1 Lambourne House, Bridge Cross Road, Burntwood, call 01543 677166 or email townclerk@burntwood-tc.gov.uk.

Memorial bid lodged

FORMAL plans have been unveiled for a £17,000 war memorial in Burntwood.

Burntwood Memorial Institute in Rugeley Road has been raising funds for the stone for the past 10 years. Plans have now been submitted to Lichfield District Council.

It is hoped the stone, to honour ex-town residents who have died in conflict, could be in place before the Service of Remembrance in November.

Burntwood Town Council handed over £400 towards the project.

Peter Reynolds, a trustee of the institute, said: "We've reached our target now which was about £17,000."

MP to drop-in

PUPILS in Hednesford are to get a VIP visitor. Cannock Chase MP Aidan Burley is visiting St Peter's C of E Primary School to see progress that has been made in recent months. Ofsted has praised the school's progress after a disappointing report a year ago.

NHS campaigner will 'move into caravan'



Campaigner Julie Bailey

A CAMPAIGNER who helped expose the scandal at Stafford Hospital is moving out of town into a static caravan because she 'fears for her life'.

Julie Bailey fought to uncover shocking neglect and appalling standards of care at Mid Staffordshire NHS Foundation Trust following the death of her 86-year-old mother Bella at the hospital.

The 50-year-old Cure the NHS founder says she has been 'driven out of town', claiming sections of the community have turned against her, with threatening letters, telephone calls and vandalism to her mother's grave.

Income at her Lichfield Road cafe dropped to just £40 to £50 a day as many boycotted the business. "I'm devastated," said mother-of-two Mrs

Bailey. "I'm having to leave my home and my livelihood because of a small number of people."

"I just hope the hospital now becomes safe and sustainable - what I've tried for, for the past three years. I want people in the community to be safe when they go there."

Fearful

Mrs Bailey said she would be moving into the static caravan within the next couple of weeks, after returning from holiday.

She refused to disclose the area to which she is moving, saying she is 'fearful for her life'.

"I want to thank all the people in Staffordshire that have helped in our fight," she added. Mrs

Bailey has said she now planned to turn her campaign group Cure the NHS into a national charity to offer advice to people across the country.

She said: "The plan is for Cure the NHS to become an official charity where we will consult groups on how to act as a watchdog for hospitals."

"Part of this will be speaking to groups and using the experience of what happened at Stafford."

"I'll be advising what to look out for, what hospitals may say to conceal problems and also push for hospital reports to be made public."

"It won't necessarily be in area where there is a problem with a hospital, it is where a branch of Cure the NHS wants to set up," she said.

NEWS

in brief

CCTV could be reduced in cuts

MORE than 1,500 crimes in Lichfield district would not be caught on camera if CCTV is scrapped.

The authority is looking at reducing CCTV operation among its proposed budget cuts. The district has 85 cameras in use, 64 of which are operated by the council. Ten of the cameras are located in Burntwood.

Youth clubs, sport sessions and playschemes could also be slashed with 20 jobs axed.

Opposition group leader Steve Norman said: "The proposed budget cuts are severe."

Total beginners' Burlesque class

A BURLESQUE workshop for absolute beginners will be held in Burntwood.

The group will meet on Saturday, July 6, at Number 7s nightclub in Bridge Cross Road between 10am and 1pm. Registration for the £29 session takes place at 9.30am.

No previous experience in burlesque, dance or fitness is required but booking is essential.

For information call 01543 505649.

Blaze at property is caused by grill

A GRILL sparked a blaze at a home in Cannock.

Firefighters were called to St Michael's Drive in Rawnsley just after midnight on Saturday (June 22).

One person, who had already left the house, was checked over at the scene by paramedics.

Crews left around an hour later.

Victory Hall the venue for dance

A BARN dance is being held in aid of a Rugeley church next month.

It takes place at the The Victory Hall, Slitting Mill, from 7.30pm on Friday, July 12, in aid of St John the Baptist Church.

Tickets are £7.50 including a fish and chip supper. Call 01889 582837 or 01889 582645.

Sports hall hire

THE sports hall at Penkridge Leisure Centre in Cannock Road is available to hire for five-a-side football, table tennis and badminton at weekends. It is available on Saturdays from 11.30am to 2pm and on Sundays from 11am to 3.30pm. Call 01785 714152.

Environment chiefs warn fly problem still not over

RESIDENTS plagued by a fly infestation at a factory near Rugeley may not have seen the end of the problem despite a reduction in the insects.

People living and working in Brereton have been invaded by flies in the last month, but have begun to see improvements following the spraying of specialist pesticides at the site last week.

The factory in Redbrook Lane Industrial Estate was illegally filled with black bags, paper and plastic waste by its owner.

In a report to the district council's environment boss, Councillor Carl Bennett said that initial reports from local homeowners indicated that the spraying of the refuse and the outside of the unit had proved successful and that the number of flies were in decline, but he added that work would still be needed to remedy the issue.

Comment

A spokesman for the Environment Agency which is working in collaboration with Cannock Chase District Council said: "We are currently investigating a large amount of illegally dumped waste on Redbrook Lane, Brereton.

"As this is an ongoing investigation we can't comment on the details of this case at this time, but we will continue to liaise with the local authority's Envi-

"The removal process may take some time to be practically addressed, but we are working with the landowner to ensure that the waste is removed appropriately and the site is returned to its original state as soon as possible."

Last week the council announced it would be taking legal action against the site's owner and have begun formal proceedings.

Anyone with information about suspected fly-tipping can report it to the council on 01543 462621.

£87m MoD deal for Briggs

A CANNOCK company has won a multi-million pound defence contract to maintain a fleet of vehicles. Briggs Equipment in Orbital Way landed the deal worth around £87 million to supply, maintain and manage thousands of vehicles for the UK Ministry of Defence (MoD). Forklifts, tractors, trailers, side loaders and container handlers are just some of the equipment that Briggs will provide and maintain. It will also find more than 1,000 replacements for the MoD's current fleet, 84 per cent of which will be sourced from UK suppliers. Richard Close, Briggs CEO, said: "This is a very significant contract award."



Annie Merrick and Daniel Page have a cup of tea with children and staff at Little Owl Childcare as they celebrate an outstanding Ofsted report with a Mad Hatter's Tea Party

Party time at school

A BURNTWOOD primary held a Mad Hatter's tea party to celebrate its childcare service's outstanding Ofsted rating.

Little Owl Childcare, housed at Highfields Primary School on Elder Lane, went from 'good' to 'outstanding' in its last inspection.

Children were homemade hats to celebrate with sandwiches and cakes.

Manager Sarah McCormick said: "Everyone had fun on the day."

"We are absolutely delighted with the report, it is a true reflection of the teamwork between the staff, children and parents."

Following the inspection in May, the Ofsted report said: "The quality of leadership is recognised by other professionals and drives the pursuit of excellence in all of the nursery activities."

"Children benefit from rich, varied and imaginative experiences that are delivered by staff who have expert knowledge of how children learn and how they can support this."

Little Owl also operates a childcare service at Chase Terrace Primary School and a day care centre at St James' C of E School in Longdon, Rugeley.

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NEWS

THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



WE ARE on holiday in Beer, Devon. As I write this, it's another sultry day on the beach, heat rippling off the pebbles and the sky as blue as a sailor's shirt. Trippers in shorts and sunglasses queue for the all-day breakfasts and chat lazily under the cafe umbrellas. It is worth recalling that the weather experts who last week hadn't a clue that this hot spell was coming are the same forecasters who are this week predicting washout summers for the next 10 years. So they can't get it right five days ahead but they are quietly confident about 2023. Allow me to raise one eyebrow.

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A MET Office spokesman on Radio 4 helpfully explained the difference between weather and climate. Climate is what you expect. Weather is what you get.

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AFTER 12 years of combat in Afghanistan, the Americans and UK are now seeking peace talks with the Taliban. Isn't this what we used to call a defeat?

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I LOVED the story a few days ago about little Adam Kirby, from south London who, at the age of two was found to have an IQ of 141. Mind you, his parents guessed he was a bit of a prodigy when Adam potty-trained himself at 23 months - having read a book on the subject.

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A REPORT by the Institute of Fiscal Studies reveals that Britons are consuming fewer calories but are two stone heavier than people were 30 years ago. So what's new? I recall my father, a builder, remarking in the 1970s on the shrinking size of the average labourer's lunch. Back in the 1950s, when men worked without the aid of brick hoists, cement mixers or dumper trucks, lunch on building sites was a big, calorie-packed meal of cheese or corned-beef sandwiches. By the 1970s it had shrunk to a bag of crisps and a Kit-Kat. We have swapped back-breaking toil for flabby bodies and most folk seem happy with the deal.

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THIS week yet another survey reveals that white British kids from poor homes are the ethnic group least likely to succeed at school. We ought to be surprised, but are we? Every other group seems to realise that education is the way to succeed in life. In too many British families, anyone who shows academic promise is taunted for being a swat, a snob or a class traitor. Deep in the DNA of Britain is the belief that you must know your place and never get above yourself and that college ain't for the likes of us. Kids fail because they are bred to fail.

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I HAVE been in journalism for 44 years and I bet each of those 44 years has brought news of an imminent miracle cure for cancer. Latest contender this week is a paper in Nature Cell Biology which tells how scientists at University College London believe they have discovered how cancer spreads from one part of the body to another. If they are on the right track they say it could be "relatively easy" to develop drugs to stop it. And yet look behind the headlines and you discover that the scientists have been working with frog and fish embryos rather than cancer cells and experts admit: "There's a very long way to go." I am dead against censorship but just as pornography should be carefully monitored and controlled, so should hope.

□□□□□□□

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Family plea after documents found

AN AUSTRALIAN woman is trying to trace the family of a Cannock man whose old letters she found while clearing her friend's home.

Glenda Faye, from Brisbane, contacted a Cannock historian after stumbling across the reference letters, which were written by past employers of James Boddice and date back to 1912.

Trevor McFarlane, chairman of Cheslyn Hay & District Local

History Society, is appealing for Chronicle readers who recognise the name to come forward with information so he can return the documents to Mr Boddice's family.

The letters show that Mr Boddice, from Chads Moor in Cannock, worked at the Cannock and District Co-operative Society on Church Street in various roles, starting as a shop boy and advancing to branch manager over seven years.

The history society has found that he married Nellie Lawson, of Old Fallow, Cannock, on January 14, 1912 and they sailed for Brisbane on the Royal Mail Ship *Orvieto* five days later.

"We would really like to be able to return these letters to the family," he added.

Anyone with any information is asked to contact The Chronicle via email at cannock.chron@expressandstar.co.uk.

Serving

Mr McFarlane added: "Nellie's brother had already left for Australia two years earlier, so you have to assume that they were heading

out to him. During the First World War Nellie's brother came to visit his family in Cannock while on leave from France serving in the Australian forces.

"We would really like to be able to return these letters to the family," he added.

Anyone with any information is asked to contact The Chronicle via email at cannock.chron@expressandstar.co.uk.

Free meal on offer for armed personnel

ARMY, Navy and Air Force personnel can celebrate Armed Forces Day with a free meal in Cannock.

The Mill Farm, a Crown carvery in Lichfield Road, is extending the offer to all past and present servicemen and women. It is serving up a full English breakfast or carvery during the week leading up to Saturday's Armed Forces Day.

And, enjoying the free meal couldn't be easier. All those currently serving, or have served, in the forces, simply need to visit www.crowncarveries.co.uk or www.facebook.com/crowncarveries to download the 'Free Forces meal' voucher and present this along with their current ID card (or veteran lapel badge) to restaurant staff.

Mill Farm manager Derek Reilly said: "We pride ourselves in being the UK's most regal carvery brand we feel best placed to support our serving and past troops on this commemorative day.

"An old saying states that an army marches on its stomach, so we hope our full English breakfast or a royally good roast dinner will provide a hearty morale boost for all our proud veterans and hardworking military personnel."

Alice theme at tea party

A SUMMER tea party in Rugeley will have an 'Alice Through the Looking Glass and other stories' theme.

It takes place at St. John the Baptist Church in Slitting Mill, from 1-5pm on Saturday, July 6 and will feature flower displays and a host of stalls and tea and cakes on sale.

Admission is free and there will be a grand draw with tickets will available on the day, from either St John's or the Church of the Good Shepherd.

Or contact Jane in the parish office at St Augustine's on 01889 574157.

Donor session

DONORS are urged to roll up their sleeves in Cannock next week. NHS Blood and Transplant is at the Civic Centre in Beecroft Road, on Monday, July 1. Session times are from 1.30 to 3.30pm and from 4.30 to 7.30pm. Call 0300 1232323 to make an appointment.



Kenneth Mould's home in Rugeley is obliterated by overgrown ivy



Now you see it... the house in Swallow Close following the clean-up operation

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at



where pets come first

Store staff raise care awareness

STAFF at a Cannock supermarket held a tea party to raise awareness of those who care for the ill, frail and disabled.

The event at Sainsbury's on Orbital Retail Park coincided with Carers Week, from June 10 to 16.

Colleagues chatted with carers from the area over tea and cakes about their work in the community.

Helena Tranter, a senior locality worker at Carers Association Southern Staffordshire, said: "The food was lovely and the welcome from the team was wonderful."

"We're proud to meet and help so many inspirational people that devote their time to caring for a loved one."

"Carers Week gives us the chance to tell the wider community about our work and we'd like to encourage anyone who knows a carer or is a carer themselves and needs support to come along and see us."

Sainsbury's began a partnership with national charity Carers UK in December 2010.

Store manager Mark Pickrell said: "Carers play such an important part in our community and we're proud to be working with Carers UK."

Sailing for youngsters

SAILING sessions for the under-18s get under way next weekend.

Youth Sailing @ Chasewater meets on Saturdays from 9.30am to 1pm and the club's RYA start sailing sessions begin on Saturday, July 6. All equipment is supplied. All that is needed is a change of clothes, old trainers and a towel.

The RYA Start Sailing sessions cost £65 per person, with two follow-on Saturday morning sessions included in the price. Cost to carry on is then £5 a week which includes the use of kit.

For full details visit www.chasew.org.uk or email m.buckingham@btinternet.com

Firm fundraiser

STAFF at a Cannock-based forklift truck supply and service company have raised £20,000 for the Midlands Air Ambulance over the last year. It was chosen as Briggs Equipment's charity of the year for 2012. Employees at Briggs, based in Orbital Way, started fundraising last April.

Photographer is over the moon at picture

A SO-called 'supermoon' has been captured in all its glory illuminating the night skies in this picture taken in Burntwood.

The phenomenon, known as a perigee full moon, occurs when the moon reaches its closest point to earth. It lasted over the weekend and made the moon appear up to 14 per cent bigger and 30 per cent brighter than when it is furthest from the planet.

On Saturday, at around 10.30pm Chase-

ton resident David Gethin took to his back garden to capture the sight.

Retired forge operator, Mr Gethin, aged 64, who lives in Foxhills Close, said: "I had

to wait about 20 minutes or so because the cloud cover kept coming over, but I managed to get a picture of it."

Mr Gethin, who is married to hospital chaplain Lynda, 60, and has one daughter, managed to get the impressive shot by connecting a camera to his telescope and zooming in.

Craters

He put the camera on a 10-second timer and was over the moon with the results.

"You could see the craters in the moon with the naked eye, but when I zoomed in

and set my camera up it picked it up better," he said.

"I use it mainly for bird watching, but this 'supermoon' was coming and I thought I would give it a go," he added.

Those who missed the 'supermoon' will have to wait until August 2014 for the next one.

Space expert Heather Couper said 'super-

moons' were the result of coincidence.

"The Moon goes round in an oval orbit so it can come very close to us, and if that coincides with a full moon, then it can look enormous," she said.



The supermoon captured by David Gethin

Machete bank raider no match for defiant granny

A BATTLING grandmother has told of the day she stood up to a machete-wielding raider who threatened staff and customers when he went on the rampage in a Rugeley bank.

Jackie Griffiths confronted 49-year-old Gary Smith at the Barclays branch after he held a toy gun to her head as she refused to lie on the floor as he ordered.

She also went to the aid of another customer who was pushed up against a wall by Smith.

"I used to break up fights between my sons when they were teenagers by stepping in between them – and they're both 6ft 4in."

"I wasn't going to let this man, who can't have been more than 5ft 7in, get the better of me," she said.

The 69-year-old had gone into the bank on February 14 to take out some money while her husband waited in the car.

She noticed Smith had entered at around the same time and turned to ask whether he wanted to go before her in the queue.

"But as I turned to my left I saw he was holding a gun about two inches from my head," she said.

"I didn't know it wasn't real. I remember momentarily thinking 'Is this the day I die?'" He told me to get down twice and I told him 'No'.

Chopping

Another customer Ian Hodgson, from the print shop, came to my defence and told the man 'Come on, we know the gun's not real.' When I realised that I was fine.

"But then he got a machete out and told Ian he was going to cut him. So I said 'No, why would you want to hurt him? You don't know him and he hasn't done anything.' I didn't feel afraid.

"He seemed to be listening but then he noticed the bank staff on the phone and said he wanted to speak to the local policeman Kev Lee and got very irate and more agitated by the long wait.

"He got very swing-happy and started chopping up everything, including a yellow plastic 'wet floor' sign Ian held in front of him as a shield."

Smith was eventually overcome by two other customers and arrested by police. Smith, of no fixed address, was jailed for 40 months last week after admitting affray and possessing a machete and imitation firearm.

A lasting at-traction for diamond couple



Ivan and Mavis Hartshorne celebrate their diamond wedding anniversary

A FAMILY introduction was the start of a romance that blossomed into 60 years of marriage for a Cannock couple.

Ivan and Mavis Hartshorne first met after Mrs Hartshorne's step-brother Clive set the two up on a date.

They went on to have three children and six grandchildren, spending six happy decades together as man and wife.

The diamond duo, of Longford Road, got married at St Luke's Church in Cannock town centre on June 20, 1953 in a service both describe as 'beautiful'.

Former builder Ivan, now 81, went on to manage the Cottage of Content pub, Chasetown, for 16 years and enjoyed dancing and steam engines in retirement.

His labour of love, Hartshorne & Wilding Amusements, took Mr Hartshorne six painstaking years to build.

As a member of the Black Country Steamers, he has exhibited all over the Midlands.



The couple on their wedding day

with two mates. He told me his sister was the one in the middle and I asked if he would set us up on a date.

"We got on really well and it all started from there.

"I have enjoyed every minute of it and we have had so much fun.

"You have your disagreements but you get on with it.

"Our wedding was lovely and we had a brilliant time celebrating our anniversary with family.

Mavis, also 81, said the couple's bond had always been strong.

She said: "He is very thoughtful and very helpful. We have had a wonderful married life. It is important to give and take but I really couldn't have asked for anything more."

"We have enjoyed holidays abroad and loved dancing and our steam engine which took Ivan more than six years to build."



The steam engine Ivan Hartshorne built

The pair celebrated their anniversary with a family meal and by spending three days in Stratford-upon-Avon.

Mr Hartshorne remembered the day he first set eyes on his future bride.

He said: "I was walking down the street with her step-brother Clive, who was a friend of mine, when we saw Mavis walking

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NEWS

in brief

Three arrested over store raid

THREE men have been arrested in connection with a burglary at Morysons, Burntwood, last month.

The men, two aged 30 and one aged 35, all from the Birmingham area, were arrested on suspicion of burglary and bailed, pending further inquiries, to a date in August.

The offenders stole money from a cash machine at the store in Milestone Way between 11.30pm and 11.40pm on May 23, before leaving in a dark-coloured BMW estate.

Guide dog fund events planned

JANET Jennings will be hosting two events in Cannock next month to raise funds for Guide Dogs for the Blind.

A coffee morning will be on Saturday July 6 at the Heath Hayes Constitutional Club, Hednesford Road, between 10am and noon.

The following Saturday she will be holding a table-top sale at the same time and venue.

The cost is £5 per table and anyone wishing to book should call Mrs Jennings on 01543 279206.

Church coffee morning date

JULY 3 is the date for the next coffee morning at a Rugeley church.

The events are held on the first Wednesday of every month at St John's Church, Slitting Mill. They start at 10.30am with the £1.50 cost including coffee, biscuits and home made cakes. There is also a raffle and bric-a-brac stall.

Strawberry tea

A STRAWBERRY tea will raise money for church funds in Rugeley. Hosted by Rev Preb Michael Newman and his wife Eileen, it takes place in the rectory at St Augustine's Church, Church Street, from 4pm on Sunday, August 4 and will include a raffle.

Rambling date

CHASE & District Group Ramblers will be going on an 11-mile moderate walk around Henley-in-Arden this Sunday. Meet at Hedsor Station car park, Anglesey Street, for a prompt 9am start. Walk leaders: John and Carol on 01543 686429.

NEWS FEATURE



HOW depressing that even the Girl Guides has fallen victim to the fashionable mantra of 'inclusivity' and dropped all reference to God and country from the movement's traditional pledge.

The patriotic commitment to serving one's country has been replaced by one to the 'community'. New recruits will also pledge to 'be true to myself and develop my beliefs'. Who wrote this stuff? Carly Simon?

Perhaps we should be grateful they are not expected to affirm their belief in global warming.

All this, of course, is just what you might expect from an organisation which is now led by Julie Bentley, the former head of the Family Planning Association.

But she knows all about being prepared. ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

BAFFLED by the return of Joe Kinnear as director of football at Newcastle United, former Toon midfielder turned Twitter philosopher Joey Barton has labelled the goings-on at his old club as a 'circus sideshow'.

Now would this be the same Joey Barton whose idea of a Christmas party involves stubbing a cigar out in his team-mates eye?

Apparently so. Other highlights of Mr Barton's career include breaking the leg of a pedestrian while driving his car, an altercation with a 15-year-old at a Bangkok Hotel, dropping his shorts at Everton fans at the end of a game, and putting his team-mate Ousmane Dabo in hospital.

In 2008 he was jailed for six months after admitting common assault and affray, and in 2010 he was banned by the FA for violent conduct after punching Blackburn Rovers' Morten Gamst Pedersen in the ribs.

There was also the incident during a game at Aston Villa where he celebrated a goal by raising his arm in the air and pointing to his moustache. He explained that this was because he had won a bet which meant he could now shave off his moustache.

Of course it was. I mean what else could it have meant?

Not forgetting, of course, the incident last year, where he decided to round off the season in his own inimitable style.

After being sent off for elbowing Manchester City's Carlos Tevez in the face, he decided to voice his disquiet by kicking Sergio Agüero in the back of the knee and attempting to give Vincent Kompany a Glasgow kiss.

As he was dragged off the pitch by his former team-mate Micah Richards, he attempted to square-up to that other shrinking violet, Mario Balotelli.

He was subsequently banned for 12 games by the FA and fined £75,000 after being found guilty of three charges of violent conduct.

Newcastle United a circus show? They're rank amateurs, Joey.



Visitors flock to see the Dornier 17 bomber on display at Cosford



The Dornier 17 Bomber arriving by crane at RAF Museum Cosford

Historic 'flying pencil' is poised to make its mark

The arrival of the Dornier 17 bomber plane brought back memories for war veteran Karl Bettighofer as LISA O'BRIEN explains

FOR war veteran Karl Bettighofer the arrival of the historic Dornier 17 bomber plane at RAF Cosford was an emotional experience.

The 88-year-old now lives in Wom-bourne but served as a navigator for the German Luftwaffe and was flying in a Dornier when it was shot down over Normandy in 1944.

Mr Bettighofer was taken as a prisoner of war by American troops.

He was at RAF Cosford recently to see the arrival of the historic bomber which has been raised from the English Channel.

Thousands of aviation fans are expected to visit the RAF Museum near Wolverhampton over the next few weeks to see the painstaking conservation work being carried out on the last surviving Dornier.

Overwhelming

It arrived at Cosford following a £500,000 recovery operation to retrieve the plane from the watery grave where it has rested for some 70 years.

For grandfather-of-four Mr Bettighofer the experience proved overwhelming, family members revealed.

Mr Bettighofer, who served as a navigator for the German Luftwaffe in the Second World War between 1942 and 1944, went to Cosford with his family. His daughter Carla Burns, aged 57, of Short Heath, Willenhall, said: "I think he was a bit overwhelmed about it coming here. He was very interested when it came on the news."

His grandson Robert Burns, 36, of Coventry, who works as a lorry driver, said: "It's so awesome to see something like this. It's going to get a full treatment and it will be nice to see how it turns out."

After being taken a prisoner of war, Mr Bettighofer was shipped to a camp in America before being sent to Scotland to



Looking back - former German navigator Karl Bettighofer, who flew in Dornier planes, at the unloading. He now lives in Wom-bourne

work on farms. He settled in the UK following the war.

Mr Burns explained: "Towards the end of the war he came to Scotland. They took the prisoners of war back to Germany but his ship went in the wrong order and he was sent back. He decided to stay, got married and had two children and four grandchildren."

The Dornier was discovered after being spotted by divers in 2008 at a depth of 50ft lying on a chalk bed with a small debris field around it.

It had sank to the bottom of the Channel after being shot down by RAF fighters during the Battle of Britain. It

was one of seven aircraft which were carrying 16 112lb bombs which it had been due to drop on the airfields in Medway, Kent. A number of staff from Cosford have been involved in the recovery project.

Darren Priday, deputy conservation centre manager at RAF Museum Cosford, was at the scene to see the plane, known as the 'flying pencil' because of its narrow fuselage, finally emerge.

He said: "It's been a long and tiring week with highs and lows. It was a huge relief to see her for the first time. It was just pure excitement."

He was with wife Kathleen Hill, who lives with him in Alamein Road, Portobello, as well as his daughter Rebecca Hickie, son-in-law David Hickey and grandchildren Freya, aged six, and Quinn, 19 months old. Mr Hill said: "It's great to see with the family."

Andy McGlynn, head of fundraising at the RAF Museum had also watched the plane emerge from the water while on a boat just over 300ft away.

He said: "There was quite a slow movement where they had to swing it round under the water to get it on the barge. It was amazing when it came out of the water. It was surreal. It looked like a prehistoric sea creature rising from the depths."

RAF technician Tony Pass, aged 62, of Essex Drive, Hednesford, was part of the nine-strong team which was sent to Kent to dismantle the German plane so it could be transported to the Midlands.

The grandfather-of-two said: "It was quite a lot of work with the state it is in. It was upside down so it was difficult. We were working all day into the evenings."

Apprentice airframe technician Ella Middleton, 19, of Copse Crescent, Pelsall, was also part of the team. She said: "We had to take bolts and parts away from each other and put the protective gel on the aircraft. Some of the work involved using hand tools."

Iconic

People have flocked to the RAF Cosford museum to catch a glimpse of the plane. Malcolm Dexter, who lives in Kenilworth Crescent, Walsall, and a former Birmingham Central Library worker, went with his wife Pat.

Mr Dexter, aged 65, said: "We saw The Mary Rose at this stage of the conservation too. We had watched it on television because it was such an iconic thing. I think lifting the Dornier from the sea bed is keeping that part of history alive for future generations."

Terence Hill, a site manager at Stow Heath Junior School, Willenhall, visited the bomber with three generations of his family.

He was with wife Kathleen Hill, who lives with him in Alamein Road, Portobello, as well as his daughter Rebecca Hickie, son-in-law David Hickey and grandchildren Freya, aged six, and Quinn, 19 months old. Mr Hill said: "It's great to see with the family."

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THROUGH THE YEARS

1983...

A COALMAN performed a back-breaking charity stunt for hospital patients by lugging a bag of coal almost the whole way from Wolverhampton to Cannock. John Junnicliffe, from Cannock, raised about £200 after completing the 11 mile journey in three-and-a-half hours.

TWO schoolmates were celebrating after coping top jobs in the West Midlands police force. Graham Jones and Richard Chidley were promoted to detective chief inspector and detective superintendent respectively.

BREWSTER the accident-prone mongrel was at it again after a leg injury led to yet another trip to the vets. The lovable scamp from Stourbridge cost £3 but ran up more than £400 in vets bills during a nine month period.

1993...

WOLVERHAMPTON pensioners joined thousands of protesters from all over the country to lobby the government against proposed heating taxes. OAPs descended on London to lobby Parliament about plans to put VAT on heating bills.

A GRANDMOTHER from Wolverhampton celebrated scooping £800,000 on the football pools – thanks to advice from her 12-year-old grandson. Sixty-year-old Joan Wharton from Featherstone won the bounty after asking young Grant to pick some of her numbers.

A SCHEME to rid Wolverhampton's nightspots of violent bouncers was launched with the aim of improving the poor public image of door staff. The scheme required all 400 doormen working in the city to join a police and council-run registration programme and a training course.

2003...

AUDIENCES were left asking "Sir" for more after a village youth theatre group performed the musical Oliver in Brewood. The popular production was staged at the Jubilee Hall and featured 27 members aged between seven and 17.

WOLVERHAMPTON's chauffeur Bernard Ralphs hung up his uniform for the last time after years of dedicated service. The 61-year-old from Tattenhall retired after spending nearly 33 years driving the city's civic heads to official arrangements.

ANGRY residents in Wolverhampton were left with mountains of uncollected rubbish after hundreds of wheelie bins were left unemptied for a second time in two weeks. Overflowing bins lined the streets around Penn as crews continued to struggle with the council's new scheme.

NEWS

Bully cuts ribbon at new Aquarius



Crowds look on as Steve Bull officially opens the Aquarius Ballroom with dance instructor Colin Corbett

WOLVES legend Steve Bull cut the ribbon as Heswall's long-awaited new community facility opened its doors.

Bully carried out the official opening ceremony on Saturday at the Aquarius Ballroom in Victoria Street, alongside Latin American dance instructor Colin Corbett, one of the leading campaigners in saving the building. Hundreds of people then flooded through the doors.

Its opening had been delayed by almost four months fol-

lowing a legal wrangle between the owners and St Modwen, the developers of the retail park. Vandals have also left behind a £30,000 repair bill.

Groups who will hold classes at the Aquarius were also on hand to show off their activities.

Yoga and Zumba demonstrations were among the activities taking place, while the Cannock Male Orpheus Choir was on hand to provide the musical backdrop for the day.

Free Toll use to beat jams

THE M6 Toll could be opened up for free when the main M6 motorway is congested, it has been revealed.

The move could go-ahead if the Government agrees to release the operators from an obligation to part-finance a link road.

Midland Expressway is attempting to renegotiate its debt burden.

The company has debts of £1.03bn, which mature in 2015, and as part of its 50-year concession agreement would

have to pay more than £100m towards the costs of the M54 link road if the Government decides to proceed with it.

Tailbacks

It has now emerged the firm has asked for the funding requirement to be scrapped in return for allowing cars and lorries stuck in tailbacks on the M6 to re-route to the 27-mile pay-as-you-go motorway for free.

Traffic numbers on Toll Road have fallen from a peak of 55,000 a day in 2006 to a daily average of 34,310.

Cannock Council leader Councillor George Adamson said the M6 at Cannock suffered from congestion regularly and if the Government agreed to drop the commitment it would be a good deal for Midland Expressway.

Councillor Janos Toth, Labour's prospective parliamentary candidate for Cannock Chase, said: "The M6 Toll road has always been far too expensive for average working people of Cannock Chase and the West Midlands.

"This strikes me as nothing but a gimmick."

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LETTERS

Charter Fair was an astounding success

I HAVE been enquiring about how to pay a tribute to those who worked tirelessly in organising the Rugeley Charter Fair, also to make it locally known about a 'Royal' honour bestowed upon two of them.

I appreciate that there are many more important issues to report, however, I do feel very strongly about expressing the fact, that there are many locals who are not publically recognised for their amazing efforts.

Over the past 40 years, along with my wife and children, as a family and whenever possible, always delighted in supporting local events... charities, Christmas gatherings, sporting and others, such

as the Charter Fair. From an article in your promotion of the fair, I saw that our newly appointed council chairman, Councillor John Rowley, no doubt along with many who this tribute is aimed at, played a significant part.

I was astounded at the excellence of everything associated with the day, it is my opinion that this was, most certainly, the greatest Charter Fair I have ever attended. My comments are based on experience of such matters, having been born and brought up in Blackpool with its Pleasure Beach Fairground. Rugeley's Charter Fair had rides which compared favourably with those.

To see families, mothers, fathers, grandparents

and, of course, children being naturally happy, expressed the true nature of Rugeley. Well done all of you who played a part in bringing to our town this fantastic event, supported and monitored so expertly by the police, first aiders and security teams.

Along with this tribute, people should be aware that Councillor Rowley and his wife, were honoured by being invited to the recent Royal Garden Party attended by The Queen. What an honour!

Again my thanks to all.
DR GARY BUTLER
Etchinghill, Rugeley

This is £400,000 well spent

I WOULD just like to comment on J O'Leary's letter. I am just a resident of Hednesford with no political persuasion, whose family have lived and worked in Hednesford for about 132 years. Many of my family were employed in the local mines.

J O'Leary perhaps should find out a little about The Museum of Cannock Chase then he might realise why it is where it is, it is on the original site of The Valley Colliery so does not require being moved closer to town, however adding a bus stop at the bottom of Valley Road would be a good idea.

He could have made the same call that I did to ascertain that while there may be money set aside for a full size running track and that a number of sites are being considered, Hednesford Park is definitely not one.

J O'Leary could have looked on Cannock Chase Council's website (Cannock Chase

Council Cabinet 21 June 2012 Report) and found out that the £400,000 is made up of £300,000, which is to regenerate three town centres Hednesford, Rugeley and Cannock, and £100,000 that was part of the Mary Portas fund. Rugeley is to get its miners memorial, which is capped at £68,000. Another £50,000 goes to Cannock and Rugeley to regenerate their bus stations and £132,000 was to improve and enhance Hednesford and Cannock town centres.

The other £50,000 for Rugeley conservation area was to be matched by the English Heritage fund and there could possibly be more subject to the commitment of property owners. I think that is £400,000 well spent.

So please, J O'Leary, take a few minutes to find out details before rocking the boat.

CINDY FAULKNER
Shaftesbury Drive, Hednesford

LETTERS to the Editor

POST

Cannock & Rugeley Chronicle,
Chronicle Editorial, 51-53
Queen Street,
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

E-MAIL

cannock.chron@
expressandstar.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number of the writer. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Correct signs would help

ONE of the solutions to the traffic problems at the recent RAF Cosford Air Show would have been correct signage, which could have shortened the six-mile tailback on the M54. A sign read: "Air show traffic use hard shoulder" suggesting that was the only lane to use. However, the nearside and outside lanes were almost traffic free until the slip road, where two lanes for the show were then formed.

FRANCIS HUNT
Burntwood

Wonderful experience at the wheel

INTERESTING to read your article about Carol Triggs (Chronicle June 13). I also experienced the event for the first time at Seighford. Stafford Advanced Motorist Group, in association with Stafford Action for The Blind, made the day possible and places were available for a fortunate 20.

It was a wonderful occasion blessed with glorious weather, and driving two modern automatic cars round three laps of the circuit, accompanied by Advanced Motorists, but having total control, was exhilarating. Add to that the opportunity to be a passenger in an array of vintage and high-powered cars, and the day was complete.

The organisers were all volunteers and nothing was too much trouble for them – they were brilliant. It was a free event for people with sight disability, accompanied by friends and relatives. Can't wait for the next one.

PAT COOPER
Fallowfield,
Cannock

Academy protest is not scaremongering

THE passion shown by the parents who attended a meeting about the possibility Norton Canes and Heath Hayes junior schools may become forced academies was remarkable and shows the great levels of support that these schools get.

I could not disagree more with Aidan Burley's response to this meeting, slamming it as "shameful scaremongering" by dedicated head teachers and governors. If he had bothered to turn up he would know that all that was discussed was information that was already in the public domain.

It shows the little faith he has in the ability of parents to judge for themselves the information they were given, it shows his contempt for the teaching profession.

The MP said the headteachers should have known better than to have organised the "highly politicised" meeting. Mr Burley, you were invited, this was no one-sided closed shop. Norton Canes and Heath Hayes between them have two Conservative district councillors, the cabinet member for education at Staffordshire County Council is a Conservative and both Norton Canes and Heath Hayes parish councils have Tory members – where they are? The community is angry that academisation is being threatened on their schools without any choice or consultation.

JOHN PREECE, Pool Avenue, Norton Canes

Thanks to dedicated nurses

I RECENTLY had to have a short spell at Walsall Manor Hospital and would like to say how much I appreciated the good food and the dedication of the nurses on Ward 13.

Some of their patients were difficult and aggressive but they had the patience of Job to carry on and do what needed to be done despite all this. This is a side of nursing that not all of us see, unless we are as I was – on the inside looking out! It takes a love of the job that must be there – we tend to forget this at times. A big thank you to all the nurses I met. At 85 years, I need all the care I can get.

MICHAEL MILES, Burntwood

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NEWS

Leisure venues are now running into profit

LEISURE centres in South Staffordshire are generating enough money to cover their costs for the first time.

South Staffordshire Council says its four leisure centres – Wombourne, Cheslyn Hay, Penkridge and Codsall – brought in a combined total above their overall running costs in 2012/13. It means extra income earned as

profit can be put towards other local services. The authority attributed the change to its partnering of centres with schools, allowing the centres to retain services while sharing the cost of maintenance.

Councillor Mary Bond, cabinet member for environmental services, said: "In the past few years we have

changed the way we think about leisure centres. By aligning them to local schools, this means we are sharing some of the costs and ensuring they are sustainable."

"The fact they now cover their running costs is not only good news for the council, but for the thousands of local people who use them regularly."

Animal centre picks up its third tourist award



David Riley and Billy the goat celebrate the college's award

AN ANIMAL centre in Penkridge has been named one of the region's best tourist attractions.

The Animal Zone at South Staffordshire College's Rodbaston Campus has picked up the Quality Rose Marque for the third year running.

It was given the award by the national tourist board VisitEngland.

The assessment, given to the animal centre looked at all aspects of the visitor experience.

These ranged from the welcome, quality of the visitor experience, customer service in the on-site cafe and shop, to how easy it is to leave the car park for the journey home.

Displaying

Jo Allan, head of customer services at the college, said: "The Quality Rose Marque is a badge of quality, which reassures visitors that they will have an enjoyable and memorable experience during their visit."

"It also acknowledges all the hard work that goes into making sure all areas are as good as they can be."

"We will be displaying the plaque in a prominent place for the public and staff to see."

The Animal Zone enjoyed a record summer in 2012, welcoming more than 19,000 visitors through its doors.

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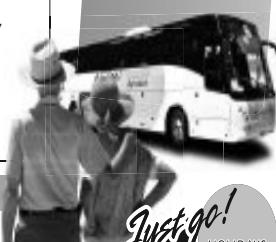
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NEWS

Pensioners' seaside trip

PENSIONERS head off on their annual seaside outing on August 5. Rugeley and Brereton Senior Citizens will travel to Weston Super Mare. Anyone over the age of 68 living in the Rugeley and Brereton electoral areas is eligible. Several pick-up points have been arranged with the first one at 8am. The cost is £6 or £7 for adult carers who may be younger than 68. Carers must accompany wheelchair users. Tickets are on sale from 10am to noon on July 2 and 4 at the Rose Theatre, Taylors Lane, or on July 13 at Brereton Carnival.

Slimline tonic after couple in joint quest



Wendy and Kenny before the joint weight-loss pact

A HUSBAND and wife couple took on a joint quest to lose weight and shed more than six stones between them in six months.

Wendy and Kenny Beardmore decided to become slimmers together after Wendy was forced to visit the doctor following problems with blood pressure and the GP advised her to lose weight.

The 49-year-old from Wimbley, decided to sign up for WeightWatchers and was given extra incentive by Kenny – who had also decided to trim down.

Portion

Now Walsall-based dental nurse Wendy has gone from 12st 8lb to 9st 8lb since November – beating her own initial target of slimming down to 9st 13lb.

Health and safety consultant Kenny, aged 55, went from more than 15st 4lb to 12st during the same period.

They have cut down on ready meals and reduced their portion sizes to help with the diet. More importantly the couple who have been together for 24 years

made sure there is a more stable three meals a day which includes porridge, fresh fruit and cereals for breakfast and chicken salad wrap for lunch.

Dishes of fish, pork and chicken breast are also regulars for an evening meal.

The couple, who have two children and two grandchildren, have always been active and enjoy cycling.

Wendy said: "We have managed to achieve it together because we support each other and we have support from the classes.

"For me personally, it was a health issue, my blood pressure was starting to rise. The doctor recommended I lose some weight and my husband decided to come along with me.

"Kenny knew he needed to lose weight and we decided if we were going to do it we would do it together.

"We were still fairly fit and active, it was just not eating correctly. We feel fantastic now."

Kenny added: "After the initial weigh-in my wife and I discussed a plan which included both of us 'policing' each other's eating habits and also taking exercise."



The slimline couple following their weight-loss

Tasha beats thousands to reach singing finals



Tasha Jerawan Blundell has sung her way to the Teen Star finals

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NEWS

Restaurant now plans an annual fundraiser

AN award-winning Indian restaurant is to host a charity event every summer following its latest success.

The Dilshad, in Cannock Road, Chadswood, hosted a grand reopening charity event on June 17 raising £715 for Birmingham Children's Hospital.

Owner Tony Uddin said he had received fantastic feedback from guests and now plans to stage an annual summer charity event.

The event was held to celebrate the reopening of his new 100 seater restaurant and to raise funds for the hospital.

He said: "It was such a memorable evening and I have received so many phone calls and emails following the event from people who went along and said they had a fantastic time.

Fantastic

"We wanted to celebrate the reopening of the new look restaurant and raise money for charity at the same time."

"Everyone was so generous on the night purchasing raffle tickets and we managed to raise a fantastic amount of £715 for Birmingham Children's Hospital which is such a fantastic cause. I would also like to thank local businesses for donating raffle prizes on the night."

"The event was such a success that we are now planning to stage an annual summer charity event," he added.

The restaurant reopened at the end of last year following a £50,000 refurbishment but didn't have an official reopening so Mr Uddin decided to



From left; Dilshad head waiter Shabul Miah, entertainer David St John, owner Tony Uddin and floor manager Abdul Jabar

stage an event and raise money at the same time.

David St John, a local comedian and entertainer compered the evening and entertained the guests with his unique brand of comedy.

Diners were treated to a complimentary three-course meal and drinks as they enjoyed the evening. At the end of the night some of the diners took to the stage to take part in karaoke. Raffle

prizes were donated by Bar Sport and the Premier Suite. The Barns in Huntington donated a £20 meal voucher as did the Bridgehouse hotel and restaurant in Penkridge. The Dilshad also gave away a meal for two.

Brook's Stores in Chadswood donated a bottle of champagne and Trevor Wright of T.W. Transport donated a bottle of Jack Daniels whiskey.

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Cadets pack up help for responders



CFR group co-ordinator Vicky Cahill and volunteers from the Hedgesford Girls Venture Corps Air Cadets

AIR cadets flew to the aid of the Burntwood and District Community First Responders to make sure they will on the road for the foreseeable with a dual fundraising drive.

Members of Hedgesford's Girls Venture Corps Air Cadets joined the first responders for a supermarket bag pack at Morrisons, Burntwood.

More than £400 was raised to help pay for fuel and the maintenance costs of the team's response vehicle.

The team of three volunteers responds to medical emer-

gencies in the area in an effort to assist injured people before an ambulance arrives.

First Responder Eddie Malpass said: "I would like to say a big thank you to the Girls Venture Corps Air Cadets for their outstanding efforts during the day.

"I would also like to thank Morrisons in Burntwood for their continued support and of course the local community.

"Their support and generous donations really could help to save lives."

Blitz on insurance dodgers

AROUND 200 cars have been seized in the past five weeks under a police crackdown on insurance dodgers.

Police and crime commissioner Matthew Ellis warned the blitz would continue. Signs have gone up at petrol forecourts as a warning.

Owners could have their cars scrapped as part of the new measures, which come after Cannock was identified as a hotspot for cars without insurance.

Mr Ellis said The zero-tolerance approach of Cars Behind Bars had proved popular. He said: "Motorists

who don't insure their vehicles and drive them on our roads are totally irresponsible and cost the rest of us money through rising premiums.

"These law breakers have nowhere to hide. Insurance dodgers are being caught and dealt with, having their cars seized and, in some cases, scrapped."

Message

Mr Ellis has said he would call for cheaper prices for Staffordshire people if the number of uninsured drivers on the roads fell significantly.

He added: "The operation will continue and will give out the message

that crime of any sort will not be tolerated in Staffordshire."

As part of the campaign, petrol pump signs have been put in place at Sainsbury's forecourt in Cannock.

It is believed around 48,000 drivers will have used the branded pumps in the past four weeks.

Offenders who get behind the wheel without insurance are being tracked through automatic number plate recognition technology in force across Staffordshire.

Images of cars that have been seized during the crackdown are put online at www.staffordshire.police.uk/carsbehindbars

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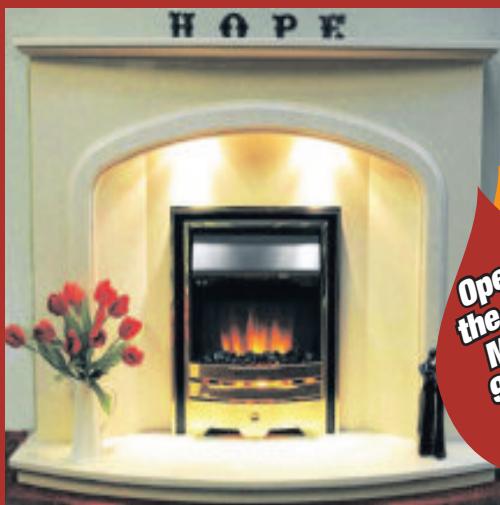
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CLUB NEWS

Donation made to hospice

BURNTWOOD WI

THE wonderful singing of Jerusalem opened the last meeting which was very well attended.

Cakes and wine were given by Jane Robinson to celebrate her Golden wedding anniversary. Minutes of the last meeting were read and accepted.

The rescheduled men's supper held in May was a fabulous night enjoyed by all and the club received a lovely complimentary letter from "a husband" who attended. A collection for the Teenage Cancer Trust has raised £126.

Speaker for the evening was Julie Beaston a "volunteer ambassador" for the Donna Louise Children's Hospice, known as Treetops, which provides a range of specialist care and support for children with a shortened life expectancy and for their families.

There was a slide show that showed how the hospice came to be, the site it was on and the building of it.

Julie told of the many children who attended the hospice and their stories. It was a very informative and emotional presentation. A closing collection was held and will be sent to the trust.

Ron Box represented the club at the national AGM and gave a report of the day's events.

The competition for a decorated wooden spoon was won by Joan Marson, and Ron's thought for the month ended an enjoyable evening.

Walkers supported every step of the way



Ted Bell, Peter Sharpe and Brian Homewood end up back at Lichfield Cathedral

LICHFIELD Rotary Club successfully completed a sponsored walk in aid of Donna Louise Children's Hospice Trust, raising more than £5,000.

The three core walkers, who completed every single step of the 118 miles in seven days, were Peter Sharpe, Brian Homewood and Ted Bell. Congratulations to all the other walkers who joined them for various stages. Other members and supporters helped by transporting walkers to and from the hostels, some even visited the pubs to drink beer. The walk faithfully followed the

LICHFIELD ROTARY CLUB

route described in Bob Bibby's book "The Staffordshire Cakes and Ale Trail - 100 miles of challenging country walking".

One of the big pluses was the support from, and fellowship with, other Rotary Clubs along the way.

The Rotary Club of Lichfield also owes a great debt of gratitude to the many sponsors who helped raise such a large amount.

Historian's grave subject

SECRETARY Sue Evans gave details of the minutes of the Federation meeting and AGM, held in Walsall on April 23.

The National Conference is taking place in Harrogate, and the Cannock club delegate will be Sandra McLeod. She asked the group to con-

sider the proposed mandates, a ballot and show of hands was taken so Sandra could vote in accordance with members' wishes. Ian Bott, a local historian and

published author was the speaker for the evening. He gave a talk on Black Country graveyards.

There were slides of memorial inscriptions and headstones, including well known names such as Sister Dora and fairground proprietor Pat Collins.

CANNOCK TOWNSWOMEN

sider the proposed mandates, a ballot and show of hands was taken so Sandra could vote in accordance with members' wishes. Ian Bott, a local historian and

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Gold pawnbroking is speedier than a speed loan

Ever been tempted by a 'get cash quick' advert? Pay day loans are becoming popular for people who may be struggling with a change of circumstances that mean they need access to money quickly.

However, a speed loan may not be as speedy as you think. In reality, background and credit checks are required, meaning that loans are not suitable for all people who may want them. The process can also be quite complicated and lengthy, often involving the need to produce utility bills, wage slips or a passport.

In contrast, if you have any precious or unwanted jewellery, pawnbroking may be a better option. With no credit or background checks required, a cash loan can be secured in as little as 5 minutes.

The loan is secured against all or part of the value of the items pledged. A pawnbroker lends money to a client based on the weight of gold and offers loans that equate to 70-80% of the value of jewellery items. Any precious stones, especially diamonds, are also taken account of when making a cash advance.

In contrast to a speed loan, gold pawnbroking is an easier and simpler way to access funds fast. It's also low risk and secure, as your jewellery is kept in a safe vault until you're in a



Visit Cashline in Cannock for your FREE costume jewellery gift*

position to redeem it. At Cashline Pawnbrokers, our service is highly confidential too.

When you utilise the value of your gold jewellery in this way, you're required to pay a low rate of interest on a monthly basis. This usually occurs over a maximum of 6 months, until the item is redeemed. Your treasured jewellery items can be easily recovered once the loan and interest is paid.

For further information, phone the Cashline Pawnbrokers Cannock store, Cannock Shopping Centre (situated

by Argos) on 01543 897 756 or visit www.cashlinepawnbrokers.co.uk. Cashline is also located at Bull Ring Indoor Market, Birmingham or St Michael Street, West Bromwich.

As a special limited offer, Cashline are also offering a FREE costume jewellery necklace, bracelet or ring with every pawn transaction - valid until 31st August, 2013.

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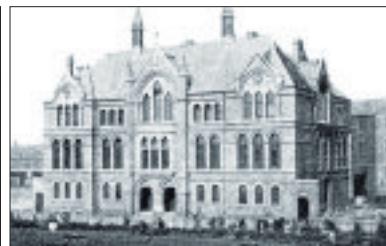
MEMORY LANE



The Bridge, Walsall, showing the original 18th century George Hotel, left. Nothing survives of this scene



Walsall District General - Sister Dora - Hospital, Wednesbury Road, around 1896. It was demolished for modern apartments



Walsall Science and Art Institute, Bradford Place, circa 1896. The building is now being used as offices



The Old Woolpack, a Tudor pub in Walsall High Street, demolished in 1892, replaced by shops



The Grand Theatre, corner of Park Street and Station Street, circa 1896. Superdrug stands on the spot today

Peeking into past with town's picture album

by Stuart Williams

AT WALSALL Local History Centre we hold thousands of local photographs, from the early 1860s to the present day.

Such collections are obviously the first place to look for historic images. But it's easy to forget that there is another rich source of fascinating photographs - old books.

From the late Victorian era, when photography was hugely popular, there was a fashion for books to be published focusing on towns, counties, or local worthies and businesses.

Many included photos, some of a very high standard, given the limitations on print quality at the time.

Books like town guides were a matter of civic pride, and these as well as others such as trade directories, albums promoting local places and businesses, and yet more commemorating events, are all worth looking at for that rare historic picture.

One particularly interesting local book is The Walsall Album, published by William Henry Robinson in 1898. It showcases numerous buildings which were already historic in Victorian times. Many have long since disappeared or have changed use and/or appearance today.

Thanks to Mr Robinson, a prominent local journalist, newspaper editor, printer, publisher, author, astronomer and leading light of the Walsall Literary Institute, some extraordinary images of Walsall, Bloxwich, Rushall and Great Barr have been preserved in his books.

These are through photographs commissioned by him, a few of which, taken by Draycott of Walsall, are reproduced here.

The Walsall Album also offers a fascinating slice of industrial and business life around the town in the many full-page advertisements which alternate with the photo-

graphs it reproduces. While Walsall is rightly famous for its saddlery trade, it becomes quickly obvious, when reading this book and others, that it was just one of many in the 'Town of a Hundred Trades'.

Remarkable books such as this and South Staffordshire Illustrated (c1899), Walsall Past and Present (1905), the Walsall Red Books (1872-1939), and more, offer a fascinating insight into how the Victorians saw themselves as well as revealing many sadly lost townscapes. All are waiting for readers to rediscover amongst the thousands of historic volumes preserved in the Local Studies Library at Walsall Local History Centre.

Prints of pictures shown and thousands more are available to purchase by special order, as well as a wide range of books, from Walsall Local History Centre.

For local and family history, drop into the centre in Essex Street, which is part of Walsall Council. Telephone 01922 721305.

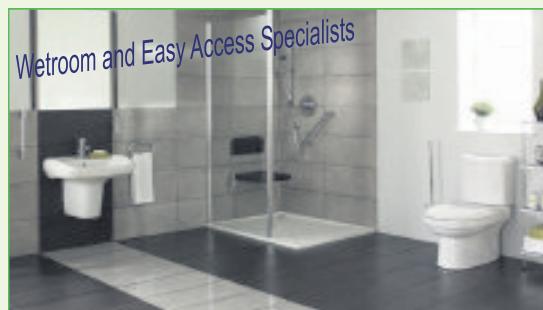


Bridge Street Congregational Chapel, Bridge Street, Walsall, circa 1896. It was demolished to make way for a 1960s office building

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NEWS

Diabetic pupil stopped from sleepover on trip

A SCHOOLBOY who suffers from diabetes was not allowed to stay on a two-night residential trip because teachers did not want to be responsible for his health-care, it has been claimed.

Lewis Sherwood, who was eight at the time, had to return home to Shareshill each evening rather than join in the fun of an overnight stay with his friends.

His parents Andy and Zoe Sherwood pointed out the family home in East Road, Brinsford, was less than a mile from the residential base in Coven if a problem were to arise.

They are now taking Havergal C of E Primary to a tribunal, being heard today, over alleged disability discrimination.

The school said its priority was the health and wellbeing of the child.

Checked

Mr Sherwood, a 42-year-old former construction site manager, said his son had previously spent several nights away with the cub scouts without any problems.

The trip in January was first raised last September. But at a meeting on December 3, staff told the family they were 'uncomfortable' about taking responsibility for Lewis' overnight care and asked that he be picked up at the end of each day.

Mr Sherwood said: 'We were flabbergasted. He only needs to be checked once in the night. We tried to reassure them but they wouldn't be moved.'

'As a compromise, they suggested he could stay if one of us stayed with him in a separate room away from his friends.'

Lewis, now nine, who was diagnosed



No sleepover ... Lewis Sherwood with his parents Andy and Zoe

with type 1 diabetes when he was four, began to refuse his food after the disappointment. He went on the trip but had to be picked up each evening by his father.

The youngster has since been moved to neighbouring Whitgreave Primary, Featherstone, and spent two nights away with his new school pals.

Carol Watson, head of Havergal, said she was unable to comment on individual cases.

'However, our priority is always the health and well-being of the child and where a pupil has a pre-existing medical condition we always undertake a risk assessment prior to residential school trips,' she said.

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NEWS

Two men are bailed over robbery at village bank

TWO MEN have been bailed after a £25,000 knifepoint robbery. The pair, both aged in their 30s and from the Wolverhampton area, were apprehended in Brewood after a raid at Barclays Bank in Penkridge on Friday.

A masked man confronted a G4S guard as he left the bank, threatening him with the blade before making a getaway. The guard was returning to his van, on the corner of Crown Bridge Road at around 11.30am.

A Seat Altea, used as a getaway car, has also been recovered abandoned and burnt out in a field in Penkridge.

Detctives are continuing their inquiries into the robbery and anyone with information should ring Staffordshire Police on 101, quoting incident number 295 of June 21.

Businesses take up offer of discount rates scheme

Report by Catherine Dalton

THIRTEEN businesses have taken advantage of an incentive scheme to move into empty shop units across Cannock, Hesnesford and Rugeley, it emerged this week.

The business rates discount scheme was launched by Cannock Chase Council in September last year.

Bosses have hailed it as a 'huge success' and said around 20 jobs had been created as a result.

Six businesses in Cannock have opened up or expanded into another unit, with six in Rugeley and one in Hesnesford also taking up the discount.

The scheme has been created using a £100,000 grant from the Government's High Street Innovation Fund, designed to boost flagging high streets across the country.

Businesses which tick certain boxes can get a 100 per cent discount on their business rates for the first 12 months up to a £10,000 contribution.

Feedback

Cannock Chase Council's regeneration chief Councillor Diana Todd said: "We want to help improve the retail offer in our town centres and increase footfall."

"I would encourage existing small businesses thinking of expanding and those who are thinking of setting up a business for the first time to talk to the council to see if we can support them through this business rates discount scheme."

"The council has had a lot of positive feedback from the businesses we have helped so far."

Around £60,000 of the £100,000 fund has been used to help the 13 new business.

The three town centres are also being spruced up with new bins, benches, plantings and cleaning.

"They must issue 'forward guidance' to business – helping companies, particularly exporters to the US, up-to-date on when they can expect easier access to American market."



Chamber boss Chris Plant

CHASE business leaders

have backed free trade nego-

tiations between the Euro-

pean Union and the United

States.

Chris Plant, director of Chase Chamber of Commerce, said: "British businesses want to compete across the globe, and will welcome the start of free trade negotiations with the United States, one of our biggest trading partners."

"We believe a broad and deep free trade agreement between the EU and the US could have significant benefits for the UK economy."

"UK ministers must now keep an eye on the national interest in these negotiations, bearing in mind Britain's existing and deep trade ties to the US."

"They must issue 'forward guidance' to business – helping companies, particularly exporters to the US, up-to-date on when they can expect easier access to American market."

Charity fashion show will launch new range

A FASHION show to launch a new clothing range is being held, with the proceeds going to charity.

The event is being held to promote new products from Glitz Bits, including bespoke jewellery and party accessories. Entry is free.

It takes place at Old Wyrley Hall, in Olde Hall Lane, Great Wyrley, from 7pm on Tuesday July 2.

More details are available from Ryan on 07557 336668.

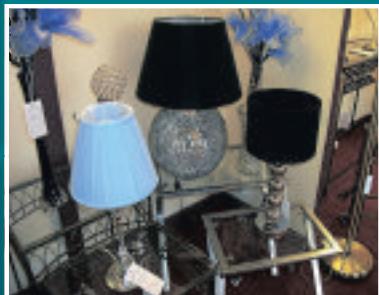
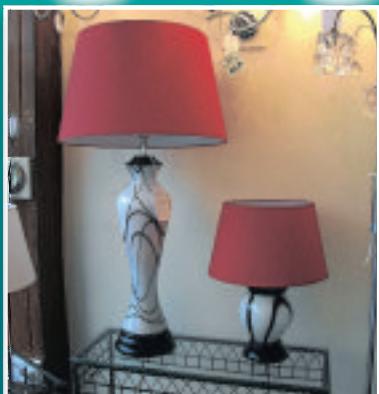
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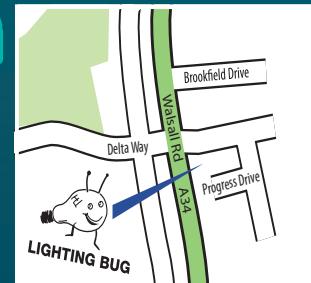
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NEWS

Village fun run set to attract a record number

ENTRIES have been flooding in for this weekend's Penkridge Fun Run, with a record number set to take part.

Sunday's event starts at 11am as part of the annual Penkridge Fun Day, taking place at the Haling Dene

Centre, Cannock Road. Elliot Goodbody, chairman of the organisers, Penkridge & District Round Table, said: "It's already looking likely that we'll have more runners than in previous years." The Fun Run covers a two-and-a-half-mile circular village route, while the Fun Day will have more than 35 side stalls hosted by village groups and organisations, with live entertainment, fairground rides, facepainting, licensed bar, and barbecue.

Scheme for privatisation of nurseries under attack

OPPONENTS have hit out at plans to privatisate seven Staffordshire nurseries putting up to 150 jobs at risk, saying the move was a cut too far.

The Unison union claims redundancies are 'very likely' under Staffordshire County Council's proposals.

Hundreds of parents in the county could face paying more in nursery fees as the authority looks to transfer the running of children's centres to two companies in a bid to save £800,000 a year.

The council is in final negotiations with Stafford Kids Club and Tiny Toes to run nurseries, including one in Cannock.

Answers

Steve Elsey, branch secretary of Unison in Staffordshire, condemned the plan. "What isn't clear is that how by privatising this service that the council will save £800,000," he said.

"We need firm answers. If the council says it is losing too much money, then how do they expect private companies to run the service?"

"Job losses are very likely and by doing this the council washes its hands of responsibility."

by Rob Golledge

sibility of providing childcare in our most vulnerable and deprived areas. It is a cut too far."

Cannock Chase Council leader Councillor George Adamson claimed the county was 'obsessed' with privatisation. He said: "The council wants to privatisate everything. These children's centres are well run and provide a valuable service."

The centres currently offer hourly rates but that is set to be replaced by a new pricing and care structure.

Around 150 staff will be transferred to the new companies but jobs could be lost.

County councillor Robert Marshall, cabinet member for health and wellbeing, said the service was running at a loss, and would be unsustainable unless an agreement was secured.

Apprentice Dan shows just why he was hired



Dan Crabtree has been awarded Apprentice of the Year

A 22-YEAR-OLD administrator from Cannock has been named Apprentice of the Year. Dan Crabtree, who works at ide Systems on Swaffield Park, was presented with the award by In-Comms Training & Business Services at a ceremony held at Walsall Foothill Club.

He has been working with the company, which specialises in the manufacture, sale and rental of temporary and emergency power distribution equipment, for two years. He started his career in workshop and signed up to a six-month management course with In-Comms Training and Business Services in September to improve his skills and knowledge.

Fantastic

Since then he has worked his way to the top and now manages the administration and the day-to-day running of the company's rental department.

He said: "Working at ide has been fantastic for me as I have been able to study for my management course while getting practical experience. I am now using everything I have learned to work towards becoming depot manager of the rental department."

Ide Systems has worked on a number of projects including the Euro Football Championships in Portugal, the G8 Summit in Scotland, PGA golf tournaments and the London 2012 Olympics.

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Use lifts plea after escalator accidents



The escalators in Cannock Shopping Centre where accidents have been rife

CANNOCK Chase Council is urging more people to use lifts rather than escalators following a series of accidents in the district.

Investigations by the council's food and safety team found one in five accidents that occurred to members of the public between 2011 and 2013, involved an escalator.

Concerns over the number of incidents prompted health and safety investigations, which proved there was no fault with the escalator itself.

Awareness

The majority of accidents involved people over the age of 75 with limited mobility or a medical condition.

In all cases an ambulance attended and the most serious injury was a broken arm.

Now Cannock Shopping Centre, in conjunction with the council, is aiming to improve awareness of escalator safety, and has installed new floor signs guiding people on how to use them safely and directing them to the nearest lift. Natal Chapman,

Report by Charlotte Lilley

shopping centre manager, said: "Lifts are provided as an alternative in our shopping centre where there is an escalator and I would urge residents in poor health, using a walking aid, with a buggy or even just carrying heavy or bulky shopping bags to make full use of them."

Members of the food and safety team will be distributing posters encouraging people to step into a lift or escalator safely.

Councillor Muriel Davis, health and well-being portfolio leader, said: "We are concerned about the number of accidents and want people to be aware of the risks so they can make an informed choice and use a lift or escalator safely."

Shoppers Jean and Alec Bate, both 79, say they do not have problems using the escalators. Mr Bate, who uses a walking stick, said: "I find I am well balanced on it and haven't had a problem."

Florence Martin, who travels from Stafford to shop with her friend Pamela Cooper, said: "I don't find that I have many problems."

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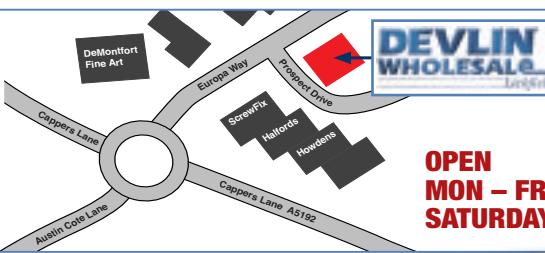
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FOCUS ON RUGELEYIf you have any news stories or pictures from this area let us know.
Email: charlotte.lilley@expressandstar.co.uk or call 01902 319490**Councillors hail success of discount rates scheme**

A SCHEME encouraging businesses in Rugeley to expand into empty retail units has been hailed a success by Cannock Chase District Council.

The Town Centre Business Rates Discount Scheme, introduced last September, has supported businesses including Creature Comforts pet shop on Market Street, C Residential Estate Agency on Upper Brook Street, and Three Wishes card shop on Lower Brook Street.

The council has funded the scheme from a £100,000 grant from the government's High Street Innovation Fund and has also helped businesses in Cannock and Hednesford to reju-venate their town centres.

Councillor Diane Todd, town centre regeneration portfolio leader, said: "The council has had a lot of positive feedback from the businesses we have helped."

Group looks back at 1953

THE Landor (Local History) Society of Rugeley is taking its 'Looking back on 1953' display to the Brereton Parish Hall next month.

The July 13 display will look back at events during the Queen's coronation year as well as the group's formation and the Queen Mother's visit to Blithfield Reservoir.

Town centre improvements could help small businesses

RUGELEY could benefit from £200,000 in funding after Cannock Chase Council announced plans to make significant investments in the town centre.

It will receive £100,000 from a joint investment programme between the district and county councils. Half of this will be spent on environmental improvements including new bins, cleaning and painting.

The other half will be used to match an additional investment of £50,000 from English Heritage to improve Cannon Chase. More than £600,000 has already been spent creating a new health and fitness suite at Rugeley Leisure Centre and a further £96,000 on a new playing surface on the artificial turf pitch.

The council has also set aside £68,000 to fund a miners' memorial in memory of the workers who lost their lives in Lea Hall and Brereton Collieries.

A planning application has been submitted to put the memorial on Globe Island and the funds will be released if it is approved.

Mark Winnington, Staffordshire County Council's cabinet member for economy and infrastructure, said: "Further improving Rugeley town centre will help to draw in additional investment and visitors."

"We look forward to working with Cannock Chase Council on future developments in the district."

Customers

Councillor Diane Todd, Cannock Chase Council's town centre regeneration portfolio leader, said: "These additional investments are intended to help rejuvenate Rugeley town centre and bring in more customers."

"The town has excellent sport and leisure facilities now and Cannock Chase Council wants to make improvements in the town centre to help small businesses."

The investments follow an agreement between the council and Wigan Leisure and Culture Trust, which runs leisure services in



Lorraine Boothman who will step down as Rotary Club president on July 1

Rotary's chairman ends year

RUGELEY Rotary Club president Lorraine Boothman is to step down from her role next week.

Mrs Boothman will hand over the reins to Margaret Jones on July 1.

During her year-long stint as president she has been involved with many charity events including a golf tournament which raised more than £200 for the First Responders, a shoebox collection for children in Eastern Europe, the collection of thousands of tents left behind at the V Festival and the Santa sleigh tour.

She said: "It has been a great year and I have enjoyed every minute of it."

"The club has continued with many of its traditional activities and I am looking forward to the year ahead and taking part in other activities which the club is organising."

For more about the club visit www.rugeleyrotary.org.uk

Cadets are flying high as funding is granted

A GROUP of cadets from Rugeley are flying high after being granted more than £10,000 to gain training.

The National Lottery funding will go towards the costs of running BTEC courses in Aviation Studies and Public Services for Rugeley's local Air Cadet Squadron (1871) based at Taylors Lane.

The 30 cadets will be able to sit the vocational qualification which are seen as an equivalent to GCSEs.

Using laptops and state-of-the-art digital projection equipment bought with the windfall, the cadets can learn all the necessary information in their own time.

The Squadron is recruiting volunteer instructors and youngsters aged 13 to 17 who meet on a Monday or Thursday from 7-9.30pm.

For more information visit www.1871squadron.co.uk or email 1871@aircadets.org

Rugby club's training day

RUGELEY Rugby Club starts its pre-season training this weekend.

They get under way at St Augustine's Field, Station Road, at 1.30pm on Saturday. For more information call 07889 088558 or visit www.pitchero.com/club/s/rugeley

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NEWS

Claire makes splash with national call-up



Claire Nixon, aged 19 from Churchbridge, will represent GB in the world water polo championships in Spain

A TOP water polo player has been chosen to represent Great Britain at the World Championships in Barcelona next month. Nineteen-year-old Claire Nixon from Churchbridge who has already been selected for the Junior World Championships in Greece in August.

"It's going to be a fantastic summer," said the talented centre-back who missed out on being part of the Olympic squad last year. "It was tough coming back from that disappointment but the hard work has paid off," she said.

The former Great Wyrley High pupil moved to Manchester, where the GB water polo squad is based, at 16, combining training with studying for her A-Levels.

GB are drawn against Olympic champions USA, Canada and world champions Greece. The first game is on July 21.

Claire, whose family live in Walsall Road, up water polo at the age of 12 at a friend's suggestion.

Plea to MPs ahead of key vote on HS2

CAMPAIGNERS against HS2 made an 11th hour plea to MPs ahead of a crunch vote on the controversial scheme in the Commons.

Villagers from Colton, near Rugeley, warn the £33 billion project will cost £1,700 per person in the UK and that its business case is deeply flawed.

In a letter to every MP, they slam the government's plan as a 'scandalous waste of money'.

MPs were set to vote on a 'paving' bill yesterday (Wednesday) which would release an unlimited amount of cash for preparation works for the high speed line, including the paying out of compensation.

Illogical

Legislation to approve construction will be heard later in the year.

In the letter, David Leech, chairman of Colton Against HS2 action group, said: "While accepting the urgent need to upgrade the UK's ageing rail network, the imposition of an entirely new line which takes little account of this need is illogical."

He said he would back the bill to release compensation payments to constituents but would reject laws giving permission for work to start if the line was not moved.

Troops' free leisure pass

SOLDIERS from across the Chase will continue to receive free access to the town's sports facilities. Councillors have backed plans to maintain free passes for all those that serve in the armed forces. Last year more than 120 personnel took up the opportunity to use the free pass and even encouraged family members to sign up using a concessionary pass. Council Leader George Adamson said: "It's a small touch but it's nice to see that we are able to help people who risk their lives for us and the country."

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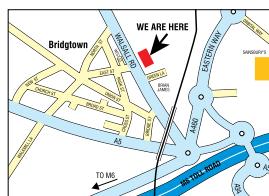
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Rachel has been established for twenty five years, and is a previous employee of a salon adjacent to Tesco at Heath Hayes. Rachel adds "A hairstyle, is one of your best assets and needs to suit you and your personality, whether its a complete change or a modification to your existing style." Emporium Salon incorporates modern design with professional 5 star service in an enjoyable friendly atmosphere. At Emporium we cater for all your hair and beauty requirements under one roof and also have a wedding dress and prom dress service to either hire or buy whichever suits. We are also consultants for Cambridge weight loss and forever living so pop down and book your appointment today. We are proud to be involved in the makeover of the Cannock Carnival Queen and are currently specialising in prom hair on Fridays.

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Flutterbys is a beautifully decorated and relaxed salon offering a full range of treatments including a wide range of Hair products and treatments and stylist Clare offers

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NEWS

Enterprise scheme helps smooth path to business

Stepping up to challenge



Tracey Hulse, front, with colleagues who took part in the challenge

STAFF from a Tesco store in Brownhills has put their best foot forward to raise money for Diabetes UK.

Most workers stepped up to the challenge of completing 90,000 steps in just two days all in aid of the charity, but impressed even themselves by doubling the total using pedometers and gym equipment donated by Fitness First.

As they climbed the never ending stairs, customers, friends and family donated hundreds of pounds towards their total of £1,200. Manager

Nicole Brittain said: "All the staff were really looking forward to the challenge despite the ambitious distance, but we were all very happy with the result."

Tracey Hulse, better services manager, said: "The response from the public was brilliant, but I think most of the staff are still sore from the challenge."

The charity is Tesco's chosen cause and the store has many more activities planned to raise even more funds for the charity.

BUDDING entrepreneurs in Cannock can help turn their dreams into a reality thanks to a new scheme.

Enterprise for Success is designed for people considering self-employment, starting a small business or for businesses less than three years old.

It offers support and advice on creating a successful and sustainable company and is funded by Blue Orchid, one of the UK's leading business start-up support specialists.

Heather Hayes, managing director, said: "At present, there is a real need to create more sustainable employment opportunities, so it's fantastic that we are going to be able to help so many people grow and transform their ideas into viable, prosperous businesses."

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"Whatever your situation or motivation, we can work at your side to get you up and running and then give you the advice and support you need to make your new venture a success."

The scheme will also be rolled out across East Stafford, Lichfield and Tamworth and is funded by the four district councils.

A team of qualified business advisors will give people one-to-one professional advice on business planning, finances, marketing, sales support and networking opportunities.

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NEWS

Structure bridges the gap between cyclists and track



Aidan Burley MP and Paul Sumner, Project Sponsor for Network Rail open Moors Gorse bridge, Cannock Chase

A NEW £1.5million bridge has been opened in Cannock to prevent cyclists from having to cross railway lines.

The structure was built following a series of near misses by bikers and pedestrians using the Moors Gorse trails opened up in the forest with up to 3,000 cyclists using the crossing on certain weekends.

Opening the new bridge has also allowed the firm to permanently close the old level crossing, which previously forced cyclists and pedestrians to negotiate two sets of gates to cross the busy Cannock railway line where trains travel through at up to 50mph.

The crossing was being used by up to 3,000 cyclists each weekend.

Paul Sumner, project sponsor for Network Rail, said: "In 2010, we became aware of a change of use at Moors Gorse as new mountain bike trails opened up in the forest with up to 3,000 cyclists using the crossing on certain weekends.

Misuse

"This increase in also meant a big rise in the level of risk associated with the crossing, so we're delighted to open this new bridge and close the crossing for good."

Network Rail says the scheme was

further supported by an increase in misuse of the crossing and a number of near misses.

Since the summer of 2010 there were 10 officially reported 'near miss' incidents at Moors Gorse involving 37 people, says the firm.

The bridge was officially opened by Cannock Chase MP Aidan Burley, who said: "The old level crossing was no longer fit for purpose. I am pleased that Network Rail recognised this and now installed a new bridge."

Network Rail says the bridge has been painted and located to minimise visual impact and designed for easy use for cyclists, horse riders and walkers.

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Mid Staffordshire **NHS**
NHS Foundation Trust

Trust Special Administrator Announcement

Monitor has approved the TSAs' extension request and the revised dates for the TSA timetable are now confirmed as follows:

Wednesday 31 July 2013

Publication of the TSAs' draft recommendations

Tuesday 6 August 2013

Formal consultation period starts

Tuesday 1 October 2013

Formal consultation period ends

The proposed public consultation meetings previously announced will be cancelled and rescheduled during this revised consultation period. The TSAs apologise for any inconvenience caused.

Please visit the website (www.tsa-msft.org.uk) for further information and updates.

Contact details

- Online at www.tsa-msft.org.uk
- On Twitter @tsamsft
- By email at TSAPublic@midstaffs.nhs.uk
- By writing to the TSAs at Mid Staffordshire NHS Foundation Trust, Stafford Hospital, Weston Road, Stafford, ST16 3SA
- By calling the TSA Information Line on 01785 887506

NEWS

Embroidery group has exhibition all sewn up

AN EMBROIDERY group is putting on an exhibition of its work this weekend. The display by the Chads Moor Tapestry Group takes place at Chads Moor Methodist Church, Hedsor Road, on Saturday, from 10.30am to 4.30pm.

It will focus on some of the more recent work by group members and will highlight some of the many aspect of embroidery and textiles, including beading, canvas work, hardanger, crewelwork, quilting, stumpwork and ribbon embroidery.

There will also be an opportunity to learn more about the work of the group and of its more recent projects. Admission is free, refreshments will be served and hand-crafted gifts will be on sale. For more details, call 01902 736674.

Blind Olivia is honoured in sensory room name

A SPECIAL sensory room at Chase Leisure Centre will be named after a sporting hopeful who carried the Paralympic Torch through Cannock.

Blind horse rider Olivia Wilson won the hearts of residents after being chosen as the town's Paralympics Flame Ambassador for last year's games.

The 15-year-old from Cannock is yet to be confirmed as an athlete in the Rio games in 2016, but the town holds out hope for the specialist in the dressage event.

Now council bosses have revealed that the former Cannock Chase High School pupil will be honoured by having a £68,000 multi-sensory room named after her.

The state-of-the-art room at the centre in Stafford Road will be officially opened on August and is designed to get people with learning difficulties or who suffer with impairments to get more active, socialise and communicate.

The decision was made at a Cabinet meeting last week. Council leader George Adamson said: "We all had the opportunity to meet Olivia during the carrying of the torch and I can think of no one more deserving of the honour."

Sue Wilson, Olivia's mum said: "I'm very proud of her, to us she is just Olivia. However other people see her differently. She is a very determined person."

Olivia said: "It's a massive honour to have the room named after me. It's amazing to be chosen for it and I really enjoyed being the Paralympic ambassador."

"I think it's going to be brilliant for the people that use it and I look forward to experiencing it myself."

Pub cider festival

A CIDER festival is being held at the Linford Arms, in High Green, Cannock, from July 10 to 29. A total of 16 draught ciders will be on offer, including 13 never before available at the pub and specially produced. Ciders will include flavoured fruit ciders and perries.

"This event has helped provide a future legacy for our local Chase Community Games initiative."

Children in sportsfest

MORE than 300 school children gathered at Rugeley Leisure Centre to take part in a series of sports events.

The Festival of Sport and Culture offered youngsters the chance to get involved in golf, tennis, football, cricket, trampolining, dodgeball, tug-of-war, swimming, triathlon, dance, netball and tag rugby.

Organised by leisure provider Wigan Leisure and Cultural Trust, the event was opened by the district's Paralympic Flame Ambassador Olivia Wilson.

Paul Smith, Sports Development manager at WLCT, said: "This was a great way of bringing young people together to try out different sports."

Culture and sport leader Councillor Chris Mitchell said: "It was great that so many took part."

"This event has helped provide a future legacy for our local Chase Community Games initiative."

Free drop-in sessions offer advice for carers

THE Carers Association Locality Link (CALL), a spin-off branch of the Carers Association Southern Staffordshire, meets at St Michael's Church Hall, Brereton, next month.

Drop-in sessions are on the second Monday of the month from 10am to 1pm with the next on July 8.

There is no meeting in August. The following one will be held on September 9.

The sessions offer free confidential advice, and refreshments, for carers. Contact CASS on 01785 222365 for more information.

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Hednesford



The Hednesford Gateway scheme comprises of two sites representing two distinct phases:

Phase One off Rugeley Road and Phase Two on Victoria Street, providing the town with two stylish new developments and helping to stimulate activity along Market Street.

This location represents a natural place to accommodate the retail expansion of the centre and is designed to encourage local people to shop in Hednesford rather than travelling to neighbouring towns. The 3.7ha Phase Two scheme is situated on Victoria Street in the town centre, adjacent to Hednesford Park and the railway line.

The re-alignment of Victoria Street will provide a single development plot for Phase Two allowing for the creation of a visually attractive frontage running from Market Street to the scheme's 4,811 sq m food store. The new community centre has also been positioned to act as a focal point for the development when viewed from Market Street and Anglesey Street.

- 4,811 sq m Food Store
- New community centre
- Non-food retail terrace and kiosk
- Relocated building for the Reserve Forces and Cadet Association
- Heritage Trail to include enhanced landscaping and improved footpaths
- New bus station facilities
- Adequate car parking facilities for the whole proposal
- Elevated food store to allow for car parking underneath

This range of facilities will attract new retailers and encourage more people to shop in Hednesford, helping to create a safe and welcoming town centre environment.

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30 Adult Items	£15.00	£17.00	Football strips	from £12.00	See below*
40 Adult Items	£17.00	£19.00	Duvet washing	from £8.00	See below*
50 Adult Items	£20.00	£22.00	(We cater for wedding linens, salon towels, sports kits & more)		

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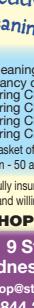
Cleaning	Prices
Regular Cleaning	From £12.00/hr
End of tenancy cleans	From £99.00
4 Hour Spring Clean	£48.00*
5 Hour Spring Clean	£60.00*
6 Hour Spring Clean	£72.00*
7 Hour Spring Clean	£84.00*

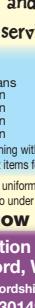
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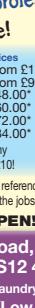
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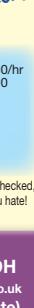
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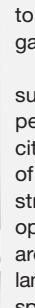


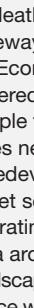


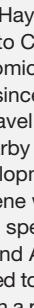




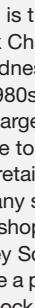


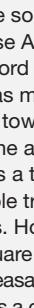


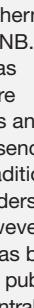
































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NEWS

Club jumps for joy as it marks 10 years

From left, coaches Lorraine Perry, Jenni Williams and Elisha Clarke celebrate Burntwood Elite Gymnastics Club's 10th birthday with club members

BURNTWOOD Elite Gymnastics Club will celebrate its 10th anniversary next week with a birthday party.

The club, which meets at Burntwood Leisure Centre and at Tamworth Olympic Gymnastics Club twice a week, has around 40 members aged five to 16 and was set up in 2003 by lead coach Jenni Williams.

The 30-year-old from Huddersfield said: "The club was set up by myself and three other gymnasts to give young people the opportunity to get involved with a sport and take part in regional competitions."

"Our members compete in a number of different tournaments throughout the year and are trained on how to use the beam, bar and vault."

Fantastic

"I have been involved in gymnastics for many years. I never took part in competitions, but I always knew I wanted to coach young people and it gives me a real sense of achievement to see them doing well."

"I can't believe the club is now 10 years old. When it was first set up I never looked that far ahead. It is fantastic to see it doing so well and I am looking forward to the next 10 years."

A barbecue and disco will be held at Chase Terrace Scout Hut, Ironstone Road, on Saturday, July 6 at 5pm and both current and ex-members and coaches are invited.

For more information call 07411 989037.

Inspector to visit site of shed wrangle

A GOVERNMENT inspector will next week visit a village allotment where gardeners have been banned from having potting sheds.

The official trip to Plum Pudding Allotments, near Rugeley, is expected to finally settle the row between farmer Paul Boston, owner of the site, and district council officers who say the sheds need planning permission.

The plot holders are adamant that the sheds are essential for storing their tools. They are backing Mr Boston who says he is 'optimistic' about the outcome.

He and Lichfield District Council enforcement officer Christine Hibbs are due to meet the government planning inspector at the Armitage with Handacre site on Tuesday, July 2.

Painted

Mr Boston said: "I'm looking forward to the end of this saga. We will know one way or another very soon."

"I've been down and cut the hedge and the bank, and all but five of the sheds have been painted green, so everything is looking good."

"I've put up rails and planted fir trees to block the view of the allotments from neighbours."

"We've only had one letter of objection from a resident compared to 400 signatures on a petition and 30 letters in support."

Growers were told 20

Samantha's a high roller

A CHASE youngster came back with a silver medal from the British Artistic Roller-skating Championship. Samantha Meredith, who trains at Cheslyn Hay Leisure Centre three times a week, represented the Tots (under-8s) category at the tournament in Peterborough and finished in second place. Samantha was selected for the British Development Squad and will attend training dates set by the British Roller-skating Association.

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www.thedilshad.co.uk

Garam Masala, an award-winning restaurant with a fabulous reputation of a contemporary venue, has established an excellent reputation for serving genuine and impeccable cuisine of the highest quality.

We offer a sophisticated dining experience suited to the refined palate, especially for those that are seeking to explore beyond the ordinary.

Highly experienced and experts in their fields, the chefs have an obsession for cooking and serving exciting and delicious food from the extensive range of sub-continental recipes.

During our time in Cannock, the relationship with the community has led to it being a favourite with customers from the town and surrounding areas, and those who wish to travel that bit further to experience specialist Indian dining.

A relaxed atmosphere has been created in the restaurant that combines with a contemporary air. Coupling the food with outstanding service, friendly atmosphere and modern decor, staff aim to provide an experience that you will enjoy and want to repeat.



NEW MENU COMING SOON!

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Cheslyn Hay WS6 7AY
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Opening hours:
Sunday-Thursday 12 noon-11 pm
Friday & Saturday 12 noon-12 midnight
www.themaryrose-cheslynhay.co.uk

The Sanam Balti is one of the best Balti's in the area, and has won several awards for the best Balti House during the last couple of years, including the Balti Cup and also has been voted Best Balti Chef.

Bringing the essence of the Punjab straight to the table. We have accomplished our standards by serving all food in the traditional cast iron Balti dishes, using the finest herbs, spices and ingredients.

The majority of Sanam's business is done due to recommendation and customers coming back time and time again to experience traditional home cooked Balti in the perfect setting.

Balti is a traditional northern dish. This originates from the North West and Northern Punjab. This is a very popular dish freshly cooked to order in a heavy cast iron wok, aromatically spiced in Punjab style in a very traditional way. All herbs and spices used for Balti dishes are delicately blended in meticulous proportions to create the Balti dishes we present to you. Each dish will have its own distinctive flavour and aroma which cannot come from any curry powder, but from spices and herbs specially prepared by ourselves.

Our service is second to none and we have a children's room, a dining hall and a private party room, in total we can cater for up to 160 people. There is also ample parking space at the front and rear of the restaurant.

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We do not serve alcohol, because our philosophy is to concentrate on providing the finest quality authentic food and to help customers avoid paying excessive amounts for their drinks. Customers are welcome however to bring their own alcoholic drinks.

Our specifically trained chefs generally produce most dishes mild to medium according to the style of cooking, but dishes can be adjusted to suit individual requirements, either milder or hotter. Please state when ordering (some dishes may contain nuts).

Private function room available for Parties etc

A warm welcome awaits you at the
Dilshad Restaurant in Cannock.

Established in 1979, it has proven over the years to be a success in fine dining, bringing the love for authentic Indian food to the heart of the town.

Dilshad is committed to maintaining its high standards and has received many accolades including winner of Best South Asian Restaurant 2012 in the West Midlands Tiffin Cup. It also achieved fifth place in the National Tiffin Cup 2012 competition awarded by the House of Commons.

"We employ some of the best chefs in our kitchen, creating dishes unrivalled in quality and taste to trigger those taste buds", says Tony Uddin, owner of the Dilshad.

The Dilshad has recently undergone major refurbishment to expand the restaurant by

more than twice the size, this now allows them to cater for up to 100 people in one of the best contemporary restaurants in the area!

And if it's spice you like, Dilshad chefs have concocted a tantalising dish. "I have many customers who come here that enjoy a really hot curry", says Tony.

"I thought I would try to make one of the hottest in the UK"

"The Dilshad Inferno is so hot that we ask customers to sign a disclaimer before they eat it.

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Offer starts Mid July
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EVENTS FOR JULY

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Rugeley



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Dr Palmer, born in 1824 and educated at the local grammar school, owed money to Parsons Cook, a bookmaker, and after a 12-day trial was found guilty of his murder. He was publicly executed in Stafford. The tale was featured in a TV documentary starring Keith Allen as Palmer.

Another notorious Rugeley tale is that of Christina Collins, who was killed by boatmen as she travelled to London to be with her husband. Her body was carried up what are now known as the Bloody Steps by the Trent & Mersey Canal in June 1839. Christina's grave can also be seen today in the churchyard at St Augustine's. Three of the four bargemen were charged with her murder. The story of her murder was the inspiration for an Inspector Morse mystery entitled The Wench Is Dead.

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NEWS

Bishop's pride at last parade of old Staffords colours

THE Bishop of Lichfield spoke of civilian pride in the achievements 'despite incredible odds' of The Mercian Regiment as soldiers paraded their old colours for the last time.

The Right Reverend Jonathan Gledhill thanked the soldiers for their bravery, hard work and sacrifice during a service at Lichfield Cathedral. He also said it had been good to hear their contribution highlighted in Parliament.



Commanding officers at the "Laying Up of the Colours" of the 3rd Battalion The Mercian Regiment (Staffords) at Lichfield Cathedral

Steven Burchell
Dip CDT RCS (Eng)
(GDC108353)
with Denture Clinic
manager Peter Brookes
(GDC124429)



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"We remain on the cusp of development, so that those who entrust their smile to us can be sure they will be advised on the best options."

Steven's work has attracted people from all walks of life, including a former SAS mountain warfare specialist, an airline pilot, a multi-millionaire with his own jet, health professionals and "ordinary salt-of-the-earth people from the Black Country."

The clinic's prosthetics, hand-crafted at laboratories at the Dudley and Wolverhampton practices, have also

found satisfied patients from as far away as Spain and Portugal. And the secret of his success? A seamless service to clients, where clinical assessment and the crafting of prescriptions are all in-house.

"It's a simple formula," said Steven, "but it has allowed me to be fastidious about the quality of teeth we supply."

"We will never compromise on best clinical outcomes and that same ethos is core to all of our clinics. We are always reimagining what dentures can achieve."

He admitted that denture wearers are one of the most challenging groups to treat successfully, presenting some "monumental" challenges.

"Many patients have had a bad deal for years, but we are in the vanguard of changing outcomes and hopefully changing some lives for the better too," said Steven.

Steven draws on more than 30 years' experience in all disciplines of dental technology to produce his hallmark "functional, natural-looking teeth."

Having completed his training as a dental technician and started his own laboratory, Steven enrolled on a three-and-a-half year CDT training course with the George Brown College in Toronto, Canada, to enable him to work in his dental discipline independently of a dentist.

Graduating with honours, Steven undertook a further year's study under the auspices of The Royal College of Surgeons.

Options

Traditional

THE Denture Clinic is renowned for its natural look. Denturist Steven Burchell Dip CDT RCS (Eng), says: "Quality, traditional dentures can be hugely effective."

Suction

DENTURES which use suction to stay in place are helping to resolve common stability problems. The Ultra Suction teeth are held in place by tiny valve-operated devices fitted into the prosthetic.

Implant retained

DENTURES retained by implants offer a guaranteed solution to stability issues. Implant procedures are available at the Wolverhampton premises through Total Implant Solutions.



What's On!

REVIEW

Giselle, Birmingham Royal Ballet

THE Birmingham Royal Ballet must surely be the best in the world and their current interpretation of the timeless classic, *Giselle*, presented at the Birmingham Hippodrome is no exception.

The audience were treated to a visual delight of stunning scenery, breathtaking technique and exquisite choreography, perfectly relaying the story of the beautiful *Giselle*, who is driven to take her own life for the sake of love.

The Royal Ballet Sinfonia, under the instruction of Musical Director Koen Kessels radiates spectacularly throughout the theatre, transporting you straight into this enchanting tale and then on to a magical journey through dance.

The coupling of Jenna Roberts in the title role and Iain MacKay as Count Albrecht is very special indeed.

One of the highlights is a long series of sharp entrelacs, executed with ease by Mr MacKay. The couple's performance provoked impromptu bursts of applause throughout Act Two, as the audience's appreciation of their skills grew and grew.

ALISON NORTON

Hound Dogs play

ROCK n roll band Jimmy and the Hound Dogs perform at Woodsy's bar in Uxbridge Street, Hemel Hempstead, on Friday, July 12 with support from 60s garage band Foxboro Hot Tubs. The show starts around 9pm and admission is free.

Second city swings to the many varied sounds of jazz

BIRMINGHAM Jazz and Blues Festival is back to bring the many and varied sounds of jazz to the second city with some 150 international acts performing at more than 80 venues – and most of the gigs will be free

Young blues star in date at the Robin

AWARD-WINNING blues singer and guitarist Chantel McGregor is in concert at Bilton's Robin 2 venue on Wednesday, July 3.

Chantel was voted Young Musician of the Year in the British Blues Awards 2011, Female Vocalist of the Year the following year and has been nominated for Female Vocalist of the Year and Guitarist of the Year in 2012.

She has jammed on stage with guitar legend Joe Bonamassa on two of his tours and won acclaim in her own right as a formidable guitar player, talented singer-songwriter and exciting live performer.

Tickets cost £11 in advance or £13 on the door. Call 01902 401211.

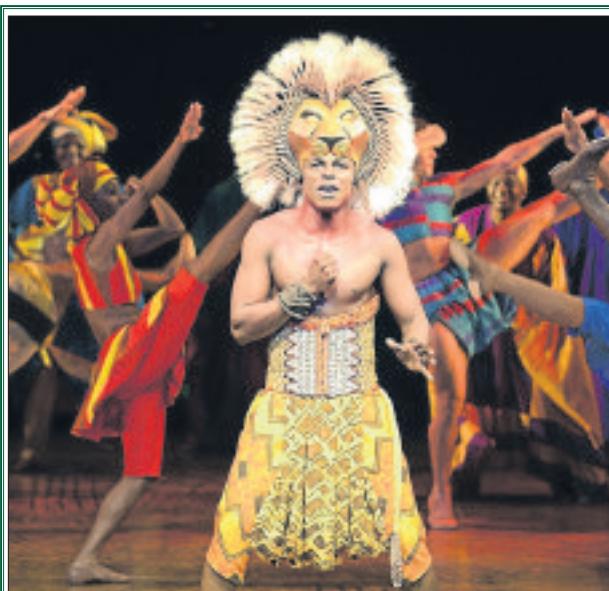
With 200 gigs taking place between Friday, July 5, and Sunday, July 14, there is plenty of music to appreciate. Some of the artists to watch out for include acclaimed violinist Tim Kiphuis from Holland, young Lithuanian band Sheep Got Waxed, Canadian singer Melissa Lauren, Chicago-born but Brum-based singer Bobby Woods, Spain's Potato Head Jazz Band and Irish singer-songwriter Grainne Duffy.

Patron

Old favourite include the Black Country's jump jive veterans King Pleasure & The Biscuit Boys, Steve Gibbons Band, Old Hill rock and roller Ricky Cool, Val Wiseman, trombonist Roy Williams and festival patron Digby Fairweather with his quartet.

The British Jazz Awards return to their home city at St Paul's Church in the Jewellery Quarter on July 10.

See www.birminghamjazzfestival.com for details.



He just can't wait to be king – Nicolas Nkuna playing Simba in *The Lion King*

Lion King roars in for summer

DISNEY'S *The Lion King* is one of the biggest productions to be staged at the Birmingham Hippodrome.

Due to its spectacular costumes, puppets and scenery, it takes a convoy of 23 45ft-long trailers to transport The Lion King from one city to the next on its UK tour.

The Lion King, adapted for the stage from the hit animated movie, comes to the Hippodrome on June 29 and runs for almost three months, to September 28.

The award-winning musical by Elton John and Tim Rice employs 150 people and 40 are locally-based.

There are 50 performers from 17 countries in all, supported by a backstage team of over 100.

More than 25 different types of animal are represented in the show which opens with hit song Circle of Life.

REVIEW

Josh Groban – Birmingham Symphony Hall

THERE is no denying Josh's voice, with its warmth, power and confidence is incredible. But please Josh – less is more. I didn't want his glorious tones swamped with a 20-piece band and I certainly didn't want quite so many drunks.

The highlight for me wasn't one of his catchy classics but the simple stripped-down Vincent, sung with the minimum of accompaniment and delivered beautifully.

Perhaps Josh is giving what many of his fans crave, a rather overblown sound that incites the waving of light sticks.

But Josh certainly gave a good show, joking with the crowd, teasing comedians and telling stories.

Entertaining yes, but I would have been even happier if he had been singing in a village hall.

The set was sumptuous and eye-catching, and with its sheer richness showed just how successful this 32-year-old musician has become.

Thankfully he opted for a simple T-shirt with jacket and jeans combo. Let's hope he doesn't get lured by rhinestones any time soon.

SARAH COWEN-STRONG

Bad Rats on stage

LOCAL Irish influenced punk band the Bad Rats are playing at the Dukebox in Telford this weekend. They will take the stage on Saturday, June 29, followed by a date at Scruffys Murphys in Birmingham on Saturday July 13.



RETROSPECTIVE EXHIBITION NOW ON

It is with great pleasure that Riverside Gallery invite you to 'Legacy' – a retrospective exhibition of extraordinary work by the late, great Govinder Nazran.

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SATURDAY'S TV 29.06.13

CHOICE



John Inverdale

Today at Wimbledon

BBC2, 8pm

John Inverdale presents action and reaction from the sixth day's play at the All England Club, focusing on the scheduled conclusion of the men's and ladies' third-round singles. The top seeds had things pretty much their own way on day six last year, with the likes of Juan Martin del Potro, Serena Williams, Andy Murray and Petra Kvitová all progressing to the fourth round. Despite a relatively wet beginning to the tournament, the schedule was back on track by this point in 2012, with all of the third-round singles matches completed.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** Lorraine's Fast, Fresh and Easy Food. **(R) 12.00** BBC News: Regional News; Weather. **12.15** Live Formula 1: British Grand Prix – Qualifying. **2.20** Wimbledon 2013. **6.10** BBC News; Regional News; Weather. **6.30** Celebrity Mastermind. With Sarah Storey, Peter Andre, Emma Walker, Dan Walker and Martin Lewis. Last in the series. **(R)** **7.00** Pointless Celebrities. One-time soap stars take part, including former EastEnders actors Dean Gaffney and John Altman, and Coronation Street's Ken Morley and Steven Arnold. **(R)** **7.50** National Lottery: In It to Win It. The National Lottery hosts the quiz in which five contestants pit their wits to scoop a big cash prize. Includes the National Lottery draws, presented by John Partridge. **8.40** Casualty. Tom and Sam clash over the best course of action for a patient who can no longer cope with looking after her autistic son, and Ash's tearaway daughter Ella causes more trouble. **9.30** BBC News; Weather. **9.50** Film: Die Hard with a Vengeance. (1995) New York cop John McClane pursues a terrorist who has taken the city off a series of bombs around the city. Action thriller sequel, with Bruce Willis, Samuel Jackson and Jeremy Irons. **11.50** Film: Tombstone. (1993) Western, with Kurt Russell. **1.50** Weatherview. **1.55** BBC News. **2.00** This Is BBC Two.

BBC2

6.00 This Is BBC Two. **6.40** Formula 1: British Grand Prix – Practice One. **8.15** Formula 1: British Grand Prix – Practice Two. **9.55** Live Formula 1: British Grand Prix – Practice Three. **11.05** Wimbledon 2013. **4.00** Glastonbury 2013. **6.00** Wimbledon 2013. Further live coverage of the sixth day's play at the All England Club, where, weather permitting, the line-ups for the men's and ladies' fourth-round singles are set to be decided. **8.00** Today at Wimbledon. John Inverdale presents action and reaction from the sixth day's play at the All England Club, focusing on the scheduled conclusion of the men's and ladies' third-round singles. **9.00** QI. Guests Robert Webb, Phillip Jupitus, Ronni Ancona and comedian Alan Davies join host Stephen Fry, who asks questions about hypnosis, hallucinations and hysteria. **9.30** Mock the Week. Gary Delaney, Holly Walsh and Josh Widdicombe join regulars Chris Addison, Hugh Dennis and Andy Parsons on the topical comedy quiz. **(R)** **10.00** What a Load of Buzzeocks. Music news stories and highlights of the comedy quiz from 2005. **(R)** **10.30** Glastonbury 2013. Lauren Laverne, Mark Radcliffe and Jo Whiley present coverage of the festival, which begins tonight by the Rolling Stones. Plus, highlights of Elvis Costello and Primal Scream. **1.05** Jackpot247. **3.00** In Plain Sight. **(R) 3.45** ITV Nightscreen. **2.00** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Jake and the Neverland Pirates. **6.15** Jake and the Neverland Pirates. **6.25** Poppy Cat. **7.30** The Grid. **8.00** The Morning Line. **9.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. **(R) 9.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. **(R) 10.00** Frasier. **(R) 10.30** Friends. **(R) 11.00** The Big Bang Theory. **(R) 12.00** The Big Bang Theory. **(R) 11.15** ITV News; Weather. **11.20** Saturday Farm. **12.20** River Monsters. **(R) 1.20** Film: Holiday on the Buses. **(1973) 3.00** All Star Mr & Mrs. **(R) 4.00** Midwives. **(R)** **6.00** Regional Programme; Weather. **6.15** ITV News; Weather. **6.30** You've Been Framed! Comedy clips, including a dog-versus-crocodile showdown. **(R)** **7.00** You've Been Framed! Humorous footage, including a skateboarding Santa Claus. **7.30** Your Face Sounds Familiar. New series. Alesha Dixon and Paddy McGuinness host a live entertainment show in which contestants impersonate randomly selected music icons in a bid to win money for charity. **8.45** All Star Family Fortunes. New series. Casualty's Patrick Robinson and Big Brother's Bit on the Side host Rylan Clark team up with their families to win money for charity. **9.45** The Americans. The Jennings try to defeat a new FBI surveillance system. **10.30** ITV News; Weather. **10.45** Film: Space Cowboys. (2000) Adventure, starring Clint Eastwood. **1.05** Jackpot247. **3.00** In Plain Sight. **(R) 3.45** ITV Nightscreen. **2.00** This Is BBC Two.

CHANNEL 4

6.00 The Treacle People. **(R) 6.10** The Hoobs. **6.35** The Hoobs. **(R) 7.00** VW Racing Cup. **7.30** The Grid. **8.00** The Morning Line. **9.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. **(R) 9.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. **(R) 10.00** Frasier. **(R) 10.30** Friends. **(R) 11.00** The Big Bang Theory. **(R) 12.00** The Simpsons. **(R) 12.30** Heston's Fantastical Food. **(R) 1.35** Channel 4 Racing. **4.20** IPC Athletics Grand Prix Final. **6.30** Channel 4 News. **7.00** Come Dine with Me. A week of dinner parties in Barnsley, South Yorkshire, featuring an American-themed evening, a Wild West-style barbecue and unusual delicacies including ostrich egg and pig's ears. **(R)** **8.00** Grand Designs. Kevin McCloud follows the progress of south London couple Mary Martin and Carl Turner, who want to build a home that respects the ancient stock of glass cubes. **(R)** **9.00** The Million Pound Drop Live. Davina McCall presents the quiz show in which contestants are challenged to place large quantities of cash over trapdoors as they face a series of questions. **10.30** Film: Patriot Games. (1992) For 18+. Agent Jack Ryan fails an assassination attempt by an IRA splinter group, killing one of the terrorists in the process. Thriller, starring Harrison Ford, Sean Bean, Samuel L. Jackson, Richard Harris and John Goodman. **12.50** Paddy TV Guide. **4.15** Just Around the Corner. **(R) 2.05** The Million Pound Drop Live. **(R)** **3.30** Hollyoaks. **(R) 5.45** Kirstie's Handmade Treasures.

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **10.00** Power Rangers Samurai. **(R) 10.35** ThunderCats. **(R) 11.00** Highland Emergency. **(R) 11.30** Big Brother: Live Eviction. **(R) 12.55** CSI: NY. **(R) 1.40** CSI: NY. **(R) 2.30** Film: Gold. (1974) **4.50** Film: Zulu Dawn. (1979) **7.00** 5 News Weekend. **7.10** The CSI Movie: Crisis. A government weapons truck is hijacked as part of a plan to allow a criminal to escape from jail. Feature-length episode of the crime drama, starring David Caruso. **8.45** Big Brother. Highlights of another 24 hours in the Big Brother house, including coverage of the second eviction as seen from the point of view of the contestants. **10.00** Big Brother's Bit on the Psych. AJ Odudu is joined by a panel of psychologists and celebrity fans to analyse the housemates' behaviour. **11.00** The Walking Dead. New series. A group tries to find a safe place for the survivors to establish a new base camp, but they find it is not uninhabited. Post-apocalyptic drama, with Andrew Lincoln. **11.55** Inside Hollywood. Magazine show, with location reports, showbiz news and views from behind the scenes in Tinseltown. Presented by Mark Morris. **12.00** SuperCasino. **4.00** Michaela's Wild Challenge. **(R) 4.25** Make It Big. **(R) 4.50** Roary the Racing Car. **(R) 5.00** Angels of Jarmie. **(R) 5.30** The Hock. **(R) 5.20** The Valley Show. **(R) 5.40** Roary the Racing Car. **(R) 5.50** Hana's Helpline. **(R)** **4** **3.00** 90210. **4.00** Rules of Engagement. **6.00** The Big Bang Theory. **7.00** The Mindy Project. **7.30** Happy Endings. **8.00** How I Met Your Mother. **8.30** 2 Broke Girls. **9.00** Film: Coming to America (1988). **11.20** The Inbetweeners. **11.55** The Remains of the Day (1993). **6.10** The Hunt for Red October (1990). **9.00** Limitless (2011) Sci-fi thriller, with Bradley Cooper. **11.05** Scanners (1981)

DIGITAL

BBC Three **7.00** Laura Mvula, & Noah and the Whale @ Glastonbury **8.00** Ben Howard & Maverick Sabre @ Glastonbury **9.00** Two Door Cinema Club & Example @ Glastonbury **10.30** Chase & Status Live @ Glastonbury **BBC Four** **7.00** Heritage! The Battle for Britain's Past **8.00** Oceans **9.00** Wallander: The Fifth Woman **10.55** Glastonbury: Public Enemy **ITV2** **7.00** Film: Star Wars: Episode II – Attack of the Clones (2002) **7.15** Film: The Scorpion King (2002) **9.00** Film: Pitch Black (2000) **11.15** Lemon La Vida Loca **11.55** Film: 300 (2006) **ITV3** **3.10** Film: Murder, She Wrote: The Last Free Man (2001) **5.00** Film: The Great St Trinian's Train Robbery (1966) **7.00** Agatha Christie's Marple **9.00** Agatha Christie's Poirot **11.00** Wire in the Blood **ITV4** **10.55** Tour de France 2013 Live **4.00** Formula 1: Championships **6.00** The Sweeney **7.00** Tour de France 2013 Highlights **8.00** The Motorbike Show **9.00** Hell on Wheels **10.00** Film: Cliffhanger (1993) **4** **3.00** 90210. **4.00** Rules of Engagement. **6.00** The Big Bang Theory. **7.00** The Mindy Project. **7.30** Happy Endings. **8.00** How I Met Your Mother. **8.30** 2 Broke Girls. **9.00** Film: Coming to America (1988). **11.20** The Inbetweeners. **11.55** The Remains of the Day (1993). **6.10** The Hunt for Red October (1990). **9.00** Limitless (2011) Sci-fi thriller, with Bradley Cooper. **11.05** Scanners (1981)

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Sunday	10am-11.30am

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What's On!

SUNDAY'S TV 30.06.13

CHOICE



Michael Buble

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** Sunday Morning Live. **11.00** Sunday Politics. **12.10** Live From Glastonbury: British Grand Prix. Suzi Perry presents coverage of the eighth round of the season at Silverstone (Start-time 1.00pm), where Mark Webber took the honours last year. **3.30** A Question of Sport. **A-Z.** **4.00** Escape to the Country. **5.00** Songs of Praise. **5.35** Earthflight. A bird's-eye view of Europe. (R.) **6.35** BBC News: Regional News: Weather.

7.00 Antiques Roadshow. Fiona Bruce and the team head to Chatsworth House in Derbyshire, where experts awaiting valuation include a tile commemorating one of the biggest bare-knuckle fights in history. (R.) **8.00 Countryfile.** John Craven visits the Lake District, where he makes a journey by steam train and rides a steamer on Lake Windermere. The series, archive stories featuring cars, boats and bikes, including Weather for the Week Ahead.

9.00 The White Queen. Margaret Beaufort joins Warwick's rebellion against Edward, but with the uprising fails, the traitor runs into the law - so Elizabeth and Jacquetta turn to witchcraft again. **10.00 BBC News:** Regional News: Weather.

10.25 Match of the Day Live. The Confederations Cup final (Kick-off 11.00pm). Gary Lineker presents all the action from the showpiece match at the Maracana in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Subsequent programmes are subject to change.

1.30 Weatherview. **1.35 BBC News.**

BBC2

6.00 This Is BBC Two. **6.40 Film:** Mr Lucky. (1943) Romantic comedy drama, starring Cary Grant and Ronald Colman. **7.15** The Queen. **8.15** The Queen. **9.00 Saturday Kitchen Best Bites.** **10.30 MotoGP:** Weather for the Week Ahead. **12.05** EastEnders. (R.) **2.00 Live Athletics.** The British Grand Prix. **5.00** Glastonbury 2013. **7.00 Peter Jones Meets.** The Dragons' Den star chats to the owner and designer who oversee high-street retail chain Timpong, and meets the woman behind St Tropez self-tanning products. Last in the series.

8.00 Top Gear. New series. Jeremy Clarkson and James May take part in a race between a car and a yacht in New Zealand and Richard Hammond tries out three of the latest hot hatches.

9.00 Rise of the Continents. Iain Stewart examines the development of Eurasia, which consists of Europe and Asia and is formed by tectonic plate collisions over millions of years. Last in the series.

10.00 Glastonbury 2013. Jo Whiley, Mark Radcliffe and Lauren Laverne present coverage of the last day of the festival. **11.00** Mumford & Sons, scheduled to headline the Pyramid stage.

2.00 Sign Zone: Countryfile. The story of the smugglers who used to operate on Romney Marsh in Kent, and whether bringing super-fast broadband to the northern English countryside is worth the expense. **3.00** Holly City. Ollie's erratic behaviour causes his parents' life. **4.00** This Is BBC Two. Preview of upcoming programmes from BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV. Jake and the Neverland Pirates. **6.15** Jake and the Neverland Pirates. **6.25** Poppy Cat. **6.30** The Hoob. **6.45** Jake and the Neverland Pirates. (R.) **7.00** Canimals. (R.) **7.10** Bookaboo. **7.20** Almost Naked Animals. (R.) **7.35** Kick Buttowski - Suburban Daredevil. **7.50** Kick Buttowski - Suburban Daredevil. **8.00** Sonny with a Chance. **8.25** TV News. **8.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.25** The Simpsons. (R.) **1.20** The Simpsons. (R.) **1.50** Celebrity Come Dine with Me. (R.) **2.55** Hollywood Me. (R.) **3.55** The Hoob. **4.00** No Deal. **4.45** Film: Fantastic Mr Fox. (2009)

6.30 Channel 4 News. **7.00 Terror in the Skies.** Aeronautical engineer Brendan Walker looks at what happens when planes fly into hazards such as lightning, invisible wind shear, birds and volcanic ash. **8.00 The Secret of Lincoln Jail: A Time Team Special.** As an archaeological dig at Lincoln Castle reveals new secrets about the horrors of its early prisons, Tony Robinson traces the story of punishment over the course of a millennium.

9.00 The Returned. As Lena's mysterious scar grows, she is convinced Camille is behind it, while Julie does not put up a fight when the police take Victor away. French supernatural thriller. **10.05 Film: Fracture.** (2007) A man confesses to his wife, represents himself in court, where he demolishes the prosecution's case. Thriller, starring Anthony Hopkins and Ryan Gosling.

12.15 The Simpsons. (R.) **1.05** Film: Chitrangada: The Crowning Wish. (2013) **2.00** Deal or No Deal. **2.20** Location, Location, Location. (R.) **4.30** Deal or No Deal. (R.) **5.25** Countdown. (R.)

CHANNEL 4

6.00 The Treacle People. (R.) **6.10** The Hoob. (R.) **6.35** Ironman 2013. **7.05** Windsor Triathlon. **8.00** The Hoob. (R.) **8.15** Film: The Hoob. (R.) **8.30** Frasier. (R.) **9.00** Frasier. (R.) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.25** The Simpsons. (R.) **1.20** The Simpsons. (R.) **1.50** Celebrity Come Dine with Me. (R.) **2.55** Hollywood Me. (R.) **3.55** The Hoob. **4.00** No Deal. **4.45** Film: Fantastic Mr Fox. (2009)

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CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! Peppa Pig. **6.05** Roary the Racing Car. (R.) **6.15** Fifi and the Flowertots. (R.) **6.25** Bubble Guppies. (R.) **6.30** Chloe's Closet. **7.00** Roobarb and Custard Too. **7.10** The Big Bang Theory. (R.) **12.50** The Simpsons. (R.) **1.20** The Simpsons. (R.) **1.50** Celebrity Come Dine with Me. (R.) **2.55** Hollywood Me. (R.) **3.55** The Hoob. **4.00** No Deal. **4.45** Film: Fantastic Mr Fox. (2009)

6.30 Channel 5 News. **7.00 Terror in the Skies.** Aeronautical engineer Brendan Walker looks at what happens when planes fly into hazards such as lightning, invisible wind shear, birds and volcanic ash. **8.00 The Secret of Lincoln Jail: A Time Team Special.** As an archaeological dig at Lincoln Castle reveals new secrets about the horrors of its early prisons, Tony Robinson traces the story of punishment over the course of a millennium.

9.00 The Returned. As Lena's mysterious scar grows, she is convinced Camille is behind it, while Julie does not put up a fight when the police take Victor away. French supernatural thriller. **10.05 Film: Fracture.** (2007) A man confesses to his wife, represents himself in court, where he demolishes the prosecution's case. Thriller, starring Anthony Hopkins and Ryan Gosling.

12.15 The Simpsons. (R.) **1.05** Film: Chitrangada: The Crowning Wish. (2013) **2.00** Deal or No Deal. **2.20** Location, Location, Location. (R.) **4.30** Deal or No Deal. (R.) **5.25** Countdown. (R.)

Listings supplied by Press Association

DIGITAL

BBC Three **7.00** Film: One: British Grand Prix Highlights **8.00** Vampire Weekend & Beck **9.00** The Shannara Chronicles @ Glastonbury **10.00** The xx Live @ Glastonbury **11.30** Robbie Williams Extra **BBC Four** **7.00** Britain's Natural World **7.10** The Rabbits of Skomer **7.20** Film: She-Wore a Yellow Ribbon (1949) **9.00** Rich Hall's You Can Go to Hell, I'm Going to Texas **10.30** Glastonbury **11.30** Robbie Williams Extra **ITV2** **3.15** Film: Catwoman (2004) **5.15** Film: Star Wars: Episode III - Revenge of the Sith (2005) **8.00** Film: Evan Almighty (2007) **10.00** The Only Way Is Essex **10.50** Big Rich Texas **11.50** Hell's Kitchen **ITV3** **3.45** Inspector Morse **5.55** Agatha Christie's Poirot **7.55** Lewis. The Inspector investigates a student's murder. **10.00** A Touch of Frost **ITV4** **1.00** Tour de France 2013 Live **4.30** Dakar Rally: From Finish to Line **6.30** Police, Camera, Action! **7.00** Tour de France 2013 Highlights **8.00** 20 Years of Champions League **10.00** Film: Species: The Awakening (2007) **E4** **4.00** 902015 **5.00** The Mindy Project **5.30** New Girl **6.00** The Big Bang Theory **7.30** How I Met Your Mother **8.30** Film: Hot Shots! Part Deux (1993) **10.15** The Inbetweeners **11.20** Don't Trust the B**** in Apartment 23 **11.50** Alan Carr: Chatty Alan **Film4** **3.05** Black Knight (2001) **4.55** The Ballad of St Trinian's (1954) **6.50** Grease (1978) **9.00** Unknown (2011) **11.15** The Spirit of '45 (2013)

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Southport, Keswick & Lakes
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Film Choices

MONDAY

Picking Up and Dropping Off, Channel 5, 3.15pm
Two single parents – one a lonely weatherman and the other an antiques dealer – have a chance encounter during a hectic trip to the airport to drop off their children. The pair go their separate ways, but although they are unable to stop thinking about each other, they lack the courage to act on their feelings. Romantic comedy, starring Scott Wolf, Amanda Detmer and Rachelle Lefevre. (2003)

TUESDAY

Cold Mountain, BBC2, 11.20pm

A soldier serving in the American Civil War deserts his post and makes a long journey home to the woman he loves. She faces challenges of her own, as she struggles to run her dead father's farm and stop the cruel leader of the local home guard stealing her land. Anthony Minghella's period drama, starring Nicole Kidman, Jude Law, Renée Zellweger, Philip Seymour Hoffman, Natalie Portman and Donald Sutherland. (2003)

WEDNESDAY

Holy Man, Channel 4, 1.45am

The cynical executive in charge of a downmarket TV shopping channel hires a mystic guru as a presenter to draw in more viewers. The ratings soar as the unlikely host's on-air spiritual advice proves a runaway hit with the public, and also makes his shallow boss reassess his values. Satirical comedy, starring Eddie Murphy, Jeff Goldblum, Kelly Preston and Jon Cryer. (1998)



Notting Hill, Friday, ITV, 10.35pm

THURSDAY

Murder 101: If Wishes Were Horses, Channel 5, 3.15pm
Retired criminologist Dr Jonathan Maxwell teams up with private detective Mike Bryant to investigate the theft of a champion racehorse. However, the case takes a more sinister turn when a member of the family that owns the animal dies in suspicious circumstances. Mystery, starring Ray Abruzzo and Brad Beyer. (2007)

FRIDAY

Notting Hill, ITV, 10.35pm

A recently divorced bookshop owner finds love with a glamorous Hollywood film star, but ends up the focus of unwanted media interest – which makes maintaining a relationship a tricky proposition. Romantic comedy, starring Hugh Grant, Julia Roberts. (1999)

Old School, BBC1, 11.25pm

An embittered lawyer decides to relive the wild, crazy days of his youth after his girlfriend is unfaithful, and enlists the help of two equally disillusioned friends in setting up a fraternity house next to his former college campus. Comedy, with Luke Wilson and Will Ferrell. (2003)

Pick of the Week

Rick takes a culinary journey around India

The part-travelogue, part-cookery show format is a recipe which has been emulated many times, ever since Keith Floyd first wobbled his way through various exotic locations in search of interesting foods (and drinks).

It's quite a simple one to follow, too – simply take one recognisable chef, immerse in a sunny location, simmer for six weeks and serve with a brand new hardback cookbook. Et voilà!

So yes, it's true that this latest adventure embarked upon by Rick Stein is hardly original – Stein himself has had similar series already in locales such as the Far East and Spain already – however the Oxfordshire foodie is always worth a watch.

His avuncular style and enthusiastic demeanour make him the perfect traveller, as he gets to the roots of an area, meeting locals and getting to know their culinary secrets, as well as exploring how food plays a pivotal role in their culture.

This week, the seafood chef approaches the halfway point of his journey, as he arrives in the southern state of Madurai in Tamil Nadu. Located on the banks of the River Vaigai, Madurai has a rich history,

distinctly Keralan flavour, before turning his attention to preparing a regional dessert, payasam, which is a sweetened rice pudding containing fruit, nuts, and plenty of spices.

For anyone who thought the cuisine of India was simply curry, curry and more curry, this will prove to be an eye-opening series – it seems that in reality, dishes are diverse and plentiful as they are delicious, and it's that variety which is as richly spicy as any.

Mind you, that's not to say Rick doesn't enjoy a good curry. He explained at the start of the series, "There's something about a curry that's all-pervading; just the thought of it ignites a longing deep inside us. It's the only food I can think of where the sense of smell works so wonderfully well with memory and imagination... No other food I know gives the taste buds such a roller-coaster ride."

It's that blend of poeticism and enthusiasm that makes Rick the perfect choice to front this spectacular series.

Here, Rick picks up some tips on making a traditional pork curry with a



Rick Stein's India, Monday, BBC2, 9pm

Best of the Rest

MONDAY

The Gadget Show

Channel 5, 8pm

Gamers take note! Tonight, the team is at the world's biggest gamers' expo to sample the PS4 and Xbox One in the company of gaming superstars KSI and Ali-A. Now part of a huge industry, consoles are becoming more multi-media and their games more realistic, so it's tantalising to imagine what these new releases are capable of. However, it's not just the PS4 and Xbox One that get sampled tonight. Rachel Riley and Jason Bradbury put the latest home security technology through its paces, Pollyanna Woodward tests a jet-powered bodyboard, while Jon Bentley looks at the alternatives when he asks whether we still need Sky TV.

Undercover Boss

Channel 4, 9pm

Here's a lesson to live your life by: always welcome new colleagues with open arms, at least until you're completely sure that they're not an Undercover Boss. This ever-entertaining series is back for a fifth series tonight, beginning as Phil Couchman, CEO of DHL Express UK & Ireland, joins staff on the front line. In the three years since he became boss, Phil has seen the company's turnover reach a massive £800million – however, rapid expansion brings its own problems, and the high-flying exec is eager to find out what can be done, even if it means getting his own hands dirty in the process.

TUESDAY

Gok Live: Stripping for Summer

Channel 4, 8pm

"Thank Gok he's back!"... is how we imagine the cries of women across the nation will sound when they catch this new series. Gok Wan's on hand to prepare women with the confidence they need to dare to bare for the summer holidays, but this time he's got the added pressure of the show being live. In the first instalment, he surprises two women with a new look for the holidays, while his huge outside catwalk show is filled with tips on how to look good in the sun, no matter your size or body shape. First up, he's focusing on the dreaded bikini. Meanwhile, Katie Piper is on hand to offer a step-by-step guide to essential holiday beauty maintenance.

WEDNESDAY

Dates

Channel 4, 10pm

As the series comes to an end, we check in with Mia and David, who are now in a fully fledged relationship – but it seems like there are just as many problems that come hand-in-hand with relationships as they do the single life. As Mia prepares to meet her new boyfriend's children, events take an awkward turn and she is forced to finally confront the gap in her life that's trying to fill. Bryan Elsley, creator of the drama, has

played a blinder with this series; it's touched the nation and appealed to so many people in different ways. Hats off to all involved in a stunning series...

THURSDAY

Happy Families

ITV, 9pm

As the last episode in this fascinating documentary series airs, the four families at the heart of it should be in a celebratory mood – at the very least, they should be passing themselves on the backs for being brave enough to let the nation get a glimpse of their domestic arrangements.

However, one clan in particular should feel like throwing a party, as Mel and Kris are renewing their vows, although juggling five kids with five part-time jobs doesn't leave much time for wedding planning. When they're not trying to make it down the aisle, Mel and Kris find time to reflect on what it takes to make a marriage work, a topic that's also on the minds of the other families.

FRIDAY

Sherlock

BBC1, 8.30pm

Don't get your hopes up too

much – the BBC aren't finally putting us out of our misery and bringing us the third series of Sherlock, complete with an explanation of what exactly happened in the last episode of season two. But fortunately, we can enjoy the second series again, thanks to these repeats which begin with the detective duo investigating a case of blackmail that threatens to go right to the very heart of the British establishment. That's more or less just another day at the office for Holmes and Watson. But that's before their investigations bring Sherlock into contact with someone every bit as cold, ruthless and brilliant as he is – Irene Adler (Lara Pulver).

Britain's Secret Homes

ITV, 9pm

If the endless repeats of Grand Designs, Location, Location, Location, and A Place in the Sun haven't quite satisfied your appetite for shows about houses, then this countdown show should. For the last in the current series, Michael Buerk and Bettany Hughes will be wrapping things up with the aid of some rather famous folks, and the odd person who is almost famous. We'll let you decide which one is which as actor David Jason, actress and impressionist Ronni Ancona, Father Brown star Mark Williams and TV presenter Mary-Anne Ochota explore the 10 most remarkable properties in the country. They include the Lincoln restaurant with a tragic, murderous past, and a house in Shropshire that helped save the monarchy.

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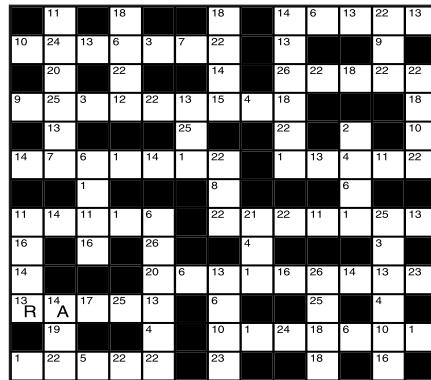


Puzzler**Brain Gym**

No.227

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

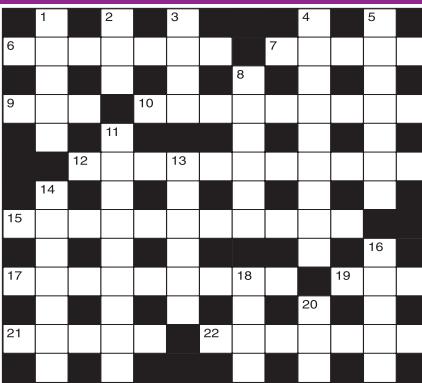
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
X	B	M	R	W	I	S	K	Z	G	E	P	O
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
D	A	V	C	T	U	J	L	N	Y	H	Q	F

**Double Crossword**

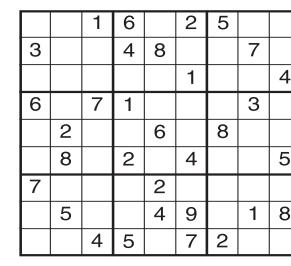
Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

Cryptic Clues:**Across**

- Everybody was in debt - it's not forbidden (7)
- Timber needed for shafts (5)
- A New York word (3)
- The right alternative for the proof-reader (9)
- I made orders for desert transport (11)
- Venus is no matinee idol, apparently! (7-4)
- Slightly injured - withdrawn from the team (9)
- Aim in a given direction (3)
- Monetary securities producing personal restrictions (5)
- I strive to make another call (7)
- Cast used for supporting a weak member (5)
- This sly creature is a loud bellower (3)
- Money needed to settle the account, we hear, in this way (4)
- Inconstant, like a planet (9)
- I'm ready for the picture to be put on (7)
- Wedding belles (6)
- They certainly couldn't be accused of having too little spirit! (9)
- A stick-up with me around constitutes a threat (6)
- One who ousts the Eastern conqueror (7)
- Point at which metal-workers strike (5)
- Poetic end to the day is calm and unruffled (4)
- Short writing can be illuminated (3)

Down**Quick Clues:****Across**

- Liberty (7)
- Lid (5)
- Insane (3)
- Impromptu (9)
- Essay (11)
- Cheeky (11)
- Deeply shocked (9)
- In favour of (3)
- Scatter (5)
- Attack (7)
- Handle (5)
- Determined (3)
- Trick (4)
- Fit (9)
- Censuse (7)
- Diminish (6)
- Alien (9)
- Glib talk (6)
- Copy (7)
- Earth (5)
- Otherwise (4)
- Hiatus (3)

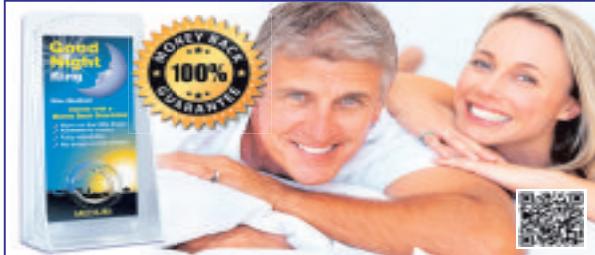
Down**Sudoku**

Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

5	1	9	7	2	6	4	8	3
7	8	3	5	9	4	1	6	2
4	6	2	1	3	7	5	9	8
1	3	7	2	4	1	3	6	9
9	3	7	6	8	5	2	1	4
6	2	8	9	4	1	3	7	5
8	9	6	4	1	2	5	3	7
2	7	1	3	5	9	8	4	6
3	5	4	8	6	7	9	2	1

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTIC - Across: 7 Spine-chilling; 8 Trousers; 9 Duty; 10 Stayed; 12 Easter; 14 Edison; 16 Temple; 18 Spar; 20 Trailers; 22 Distinguished; Down: 1 Spirited; 2 Injury; 3 Acre; 4 Misspent; 5 Blades; 6 Knot; 11 Donating; 13 Enlarged; 15 Struts; 17 Molest; 19 Pair; 21 Arum; QUICK - Across: 7 United Kingdom; 8 Reticent; 9 Able; 10 Gentle; 12 Action; 14 Street; 16 Tested; 18 Goad; 20 Entrance; 22 Salvation Army; Down: 1 Interest; 2 Street; 3 Able; 4 Distract; 5 Agnash; 6 Toll; 11 Elegantly; 13 Overcome; 15 Endive; 17 Seaman; 19 Oral; 21 Trot.



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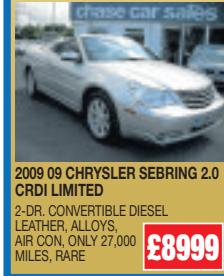
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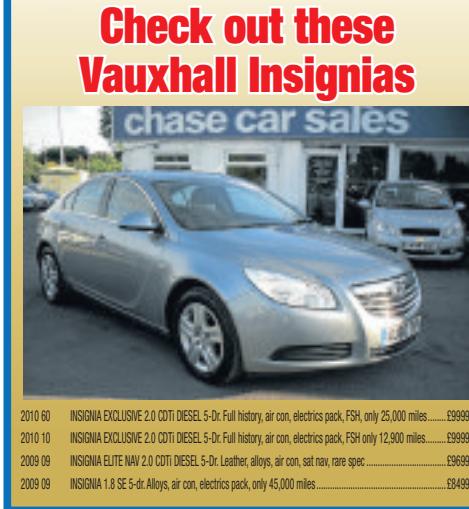
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Motoring

Vauxhall's new Astra is covering all options

By Bob Hickman

VAUXHALL, with the Astra, has a vehicle that really does cater for all eventualities. It comes as a hot-hatch, conventional saloon and now, with the introduction of a tourer or estate version, the range is complete.

The Astra hatch is one of the best selling vehicles and there is very little doubt that the estate version will soon fill another niche.

Surprisingly, the wheelbase of the tourer is the same as the hatchback, but the superior packaging has given a load length increase and its load volume has been increased dramatically, even with the rear seats up, as you would expect from an estate vehicle.

The extra carrying capacity has not been restricted to the rear section. Vauxhall has cleverly increased the interior storage space with an additional 25 litres, which is over half of what was there before. So now you store maps, bottles of water, the pop or all sorts of paraphernalia that you need.

The tourer's exterior design is quite pleasing on the eye and it is not a slab-like estate vehicle, the interior has also been worked over and all occupants benefit from a premium feel within the confines of the vehicle. I liked the ambient lighting effect and the wraparound front dashboard.

Massive

There is a massive choice of seven engines to choose from. Starting with the petrol options there is a 100ps 1.4-litre and also a turbo-charged 140 bhp 1.4-litre, in addition a 1.6-litre eco version is available. Diesels have a 1.3-litre which is equipped with a stop/go mechanism and two 1.7-litre engines with different power outputs, and an extremely powerful 2-litre diesel; all engines have reasonable but not frugal CO2 emissions.

My particular test vehicle, a 1.7-litre CDTi diesel, produces 130bhp, which was sufficient to give it a 0-60 time of marginally over 10 seconds and a top speed of 124 mph. Vauxhall claims 70.6mpg may be achievable on the combined cycle in a laboratory.

However, in real world driving, I achieved 58mpg, which for the size of the vehicle is quite commendable.

The level of equipment on all vehicles nowadays is quite good and even the entry level ES range has a standard air conditioning, a multitude of air bags, Electronic

Stability Control, electric parking brake and various other safety features.

Trim levels are badged as ES, Exclusiv, SE and SRI, and as you would expect there is a whole plethora of extra equipment if you so desire.

My particular derivative had a price tag of £20,955 and it benefits from Vauxhall's new lifetime 100,000 miles warranty. The range varies between £17,280 and £25,150.

Bumper to bumper

Car: Astra Sports Tourer

Model: 1.7 CDTi

Price: £20,955

CO2 emissions:

102g/km

Top speed: 124mph

0-60mph: 10.1 seconds

Combined fuel: 70.6mpg



The stylish Vauxhall Astra tourer offers a choice of seven engines



Vauxhall has increased the storage space inside the new Astra tourer

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61 New Astra 1.6 Elite SRI 5dr, leather, parking sensors, 5000 miles, Black	£11999
62 New Astra 1.6 SRI 5dr hatch, Parking sensors, 19" alloys, 3400 miles, Sovereign Silver	£12999
61 Astra GTC 2.0 CDTi SRI, White, 17" alloys, 5500 miles, rear parking sensors	£14999
11 New Astra 2.0 CDTi SRI 5dr, sat nav, Bluetooth + more, ex demo, 16100 miles, Silver	£15999
62 Astra GTC 1.7 CDTI SRI, 19" alloys, Bluetooth, DAB, 4800 miles, EX demo, White	£16999
62 Astra GTC 1.6 Turbo SRI, 19" alloys, Bluetooth, DAB, 2300 miles, EX demo, Red	£16999
62 Astra GTC 1.7 CDTI SRI, 19" alloys, Bluetooth, DAB, 3700 miles, EX demo, Red	£16999
62 Astra GTC 2.0 CDTi SRI, 19" alloys, Bluetooth, Sat Nav, 5900 miles, EX demo, Grey	£19499

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10 Agila 1.2 Design 5dr hatch, 15" alloys, A/C, CD, 14800 miles, Snow White	£6499
60 Corsa 1.4 SXi 5dr hatch, A/C, Alloys, Flexifit bike carrier, 34800 miles, Flame Red	£6999
60 Corsa 1.4 Design 3dr, air con, alloys, Air Blue, 23000 miles	£7499
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12 Corsa 1.4 SXi 5dr hatch, 16" alloys, MP3 connection, 13100 miles, Silver	£8999
62 Corsa 1.2 SE 3dr, half leather, Heated seats, 16" alloys, 8500 miles, Technical Grey	£9199
62 Corsa 1.4 SXi 3dr, 16" alloys, MP3 connection, A/C, 8500 miles, Waterworld	£9999
11 Corsa 1.2 Ltd Edition 3dr, Yellow, black alloys, black roof, air con, 13800 miles	£9999
62 Corsa 1.2 SE 5dr, Air con, Alloys, heated seats and steering wheel, 3200 miles	£9999

MERIVA

08 Meriva 1.4 Breeze 5dr hatch, Elec windows/Mirrors, A/C, 28100 miles, Star Silver	£5999
61 New Meriva 1.4 Exclusiv 5dr, Cruise control, USB connection, 18500 miles, Silver	£8499
12 New Meriva 1.4 Exclusiv 5dr hatch, A/C, Cruise control, 11200 miles, Oriental Blue	£8999
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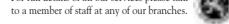
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DACE
Jean Mary
nee Parrington

Sadly passed away suddenly on
Tuesday, June 18, 2013
aged 71 years.

Funeral Service to take place
on Tuesday, July 2, 2013, at St
Luke's Church, at 11am,
followed by Cremation at
Stafford Crematorium.

Family flowers only,
donations if desired for the
Air Ambulance.

EARLL
Leslie Jack

Passed away peacefully on
June 20, 2013, aged 89 years.
Sadly missed by all his Family
and Friends.

Funeral Service will take
place at Stafford Crematorium,
on Tuesday, July 2, at
2.30pm.

The Family invites everyone to
join them at The
Greenheath Club, Blewett
Street, Hednesford.

Family flowers only please.
Donations for Katherine
House Hospice c/o

BRADBURY
Chris
Chiropodist
Beloved Husband and Father
Beloved passed away on June 20,
2013.

His Funeral Service will be
held on Thursday, July 4, at
10.30am, at Bushbury
Crematorium.

Family flowers only please.
Donations to be made to
Cancer Research UK c/o

JAMES
Gwendoline
nee Pockett

Formerly of Hednesford,
passed away peacefully on
June 18, 2013, aged 80 years.

Funeral Service will take
place on Friday, June 28, at St
Peter's Church, Hednesford,
at 11am, followed by
Internment in the Churchyard.

Any further inquiries to

GEORGE STACEY

Funeral Directors

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Hednesford
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DEATHS

EARLL
Leslie Jack

It broke my heart to lose you
but you didn't go alone, for
me of went with you the day
God called you home.

Beloved Wife Irene

In life I loved you dearly, in
death I love you still, in my
heart you hold a place that no
one could ever fill.

Things will never be the same
and although it hurts so bad I
will smile whenever I hear
your name and be proud you
were my Dad.

Brokenhearted Daughter
Christine and Son-in-law
Chris.

Those we love remain with us,
for love itself lives on.
Cherished memories never
fade because our Grandad's
gone. Those we love can never
be more than a thought
apart, for as long as we have
memories, you will live on in
our hearts.

Grandchildren, Leigh and
Zoe and Craig and Sharon,
Great Grandchildren,
Edward, George, Oliver and
Avery.

He always tried to do his best,
his heart was true and tender.
He simply lived for those he
loved and those he loved
remember.

Dear Dad you will be forever
in our hearts.

Son Andrew, Daughter-in-law
Clare and Grandchildren
Michael, Rachel, Jack and
Harry.

EARLL
Leslie

We wish that we could see you
Dad for just a little while, we
wish that we could hug you
and see your lovely smile but
wishing gets us nowhere and
longing is in vain, so we will
hold you in our hearts until
we meet again.

Love always.

Daughter Sue, Son-in-law
Harry and Grandchildren.

GOUGH
Keith Hugh
nee Parrington

Sadly passed away on June 21,
2013.

A loving Husband, Father and
Grandad.

Funeral Service will take
place at Stafford Crematorium,
on Wednesday, July 3, at
2pm.

Refreshments afterwards at
The Seven Stars, Brocton.

Family flowers only please.

Donations if desired to St
Giles Hospice c/o

GEORGE STACEY

Funeral Directors

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Hednesford
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01543 422524

EARLL
Leslie Jack

Will always love you and miss
you deeply.

Rest in peace now Nan.

With love, Sue and Mike.

XX X

PUGH
Irene
Mom

Passed away June 14, 2013.

Mom you were so special in
everything that you did you've
always taken care of me and
shared a love so true.

You have the sweetest smile
that there could ever be and
most of all I love you for
always loving me.

Daughter Maureen.

R.I.P.

XX X

Nan

Will always love you and miss
you deeply.

Rest in peace now Nan.

With love, Sue and Mike.

XX X

PUGH
Irene

Passed away June 14, 2013.

Dearly loved Mom.

Will be in our hearts forever.

Son Bob and Chris.

XX X

STEER

Mark

Sadly missed.

From Brother Neil and
Family.

XX X

JONES
Philip Roy

Passed away at his home
suddenly on June 20, 2013,
aged 50 years.

The Funeral Service will take
place at St Luke's Church,
Cannock, on Friday, July 5,
2013, at 10.30am, followed by
Committal at Stafford
Crematorium.

Flowers welcome or
donations if desired for
Cancer Research.

All inquiries to

HALLIWELL

FUNERAL SERVICE

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Great Wyrley,

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LYNALL

Judith Veronica

Passed away peacefully on
June 11, 2013.

Much loved by all her Family
and Friends, she will be sadly
missed.

Her Funeral Service will take
place on Monday, July 1,
at 12 noon, at Stafford
Crematorium, on Friday,
June 28, 2013, at 3.30pm.

Flowers welcome or
donations if desired. These
will be forwarded to
Parkinson's UK.

For all further inquiries
please contact

Any further inquiries to

CO-OPERATIVE

FUNERALS CARE

106, Hednesford Road,

Heath Hayes.

01543 495609.

TRANTER

Betty

If flowers grow in Heaven,

Lord then pick a bunch for
me, then place them in my
Mothers arms and tell her I
love her and miss her and when
she turns to smile, place a kiss
upon her cheek and hold her
for awhile.

Family flowers only please,
donations, if desired to St.
Giles Hospice and Air
Ambulance.

From your loving Son David,
Yvonne, Nigel, Stephen and
Emma.

XX X

TRANTER

Betty

A beautiful memory dearer
than gold, of a Mum whose
worth can never be told.

There's a place in our hearts
no one can fill, we miss you
Mum and always will.

With heartfelt sadness.

Everloving Daughter Jill,

Son-in-law Mick.

XX X

TRANTER

Betty

Dear Mom we will treasure
our memories.

Love and miss you and look
forward to the promise of
the resurrection.

John 25/27.

Love always, Rob, Ann, Dean,
Luke and Flynn.

XX X

TRANTER

Betty

It broke our hearts to lose you
but you did not go alone, for
part of us went with you, on
your final journey home.

Love always, Kellie, Martyn
and Adam.

XX X

FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENT

CUSTOMER

INFORMATION

Please note that the deadline for
our weekly Cannock
Chronicle is 11.30am every
Tuesday for the same weeks
edition.

IN MEMORIAM

DAINTY

Ada

Mom, Nan and Great-Nan.

Land Army Girl.

One year June 27th.

Gone are the days we used to
share but in our hearts you
are always there, your presence
we miss, your memory we
treasure, loving you always
forgetting you never.

Love always.

Jan, Rob, John, Andrea, Laura
and Harry.

XX X

SCHOFIELD

Cliff

Wonderful Husband, Dad
and Grandad.

Six years June 30.

Silent thoughts, tears unseen,
wishing your absent was only
a dream.

We love and miss you every
day and wish with all our
hearts you were here today.

God bless you.

Your loving Family.

XX X

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

REANEY

Alfred Thomas

Sadly passed away on May 18,
2013, aged 64 years.

Alf's Family wish to thank
everyone for their kind
thoughts, messages of
sympathy and donations to
the Teenage Cancer Trust,
(Stephen Sutton), of £152.

GRAVE TENDING

Tending Service, Call Tidey
Angels on 07804 856638.

**Family
Announcements
continue on
page 98**

Classified Ads

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1

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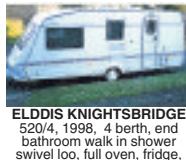
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£3.50 any Pitch-Car-Van

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www.bestbootsales.com
07890 267041



Best Wednesday Boot sale
10am. Pouk Lane A461 muckley corner between Lichfield & walsall
Friday Bootsale
11am. A464 Albrighton, W'ton
www.bestbootsales.com
07890 26741

The Best Every Saturday BOOT SALE
8am - 2pm. B4176 Rabbit Run, Chesterton, between Dudley & Telford

The Biggest Every Sunday BOOT SALE
8am - 2pm. A34 Cannock Chase, Cannock

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ATLAS CARAVAN on quiet park near Tenbury Wells. £9750 tel 01885 410331 or see more at www.wigleycarh.co.uk

AVONDALE 380
2 berth, 2001 caravan, includes Cemeo full awning, with end bedroom. Excellent condition. £3,500. Call: 0121 557 4079

AVONDALE 550-4 Venetian, 2007, very good condition, end bathroom, lots of extras. £7,500. 0121 550 0888.

AVONDALE CLASSIC
25 Eagle, 1998, 18ft, 4 berth, L shaped lounge, rear bathroom, separate shower/toilet, full oven/cooker, b/a heating, flyscreens and blinds. £2,300. Tel 07973 753809.

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£3.50 any Pitch-Car-Van

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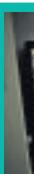
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Opening bowlers take on the best

TWO bowlers from Cannock Cricket Club have had the chance to bowl at some of the world's best cricket players over the past three weeks.

Ed Fleet, 19, and Jack Twigger, 17, were chosen as net bowlers for the ICC Champions Trophy tournament at Edgbaston.

The pair open the bowling for Cannock's First team on Saturdays but tested their skills against the best players in the world as they took part in net sessions.

Twigger said: "I was extremely nervous and excited when I found out I had been accepted to be a net bowler but everybody was really friendly when I got there. The main thing I learnt was the value of practise."

"The professionals practise harder than anybody and that's why they make it to the top."

Fleet said: "It was interesting for somebody who wants to improve as a player to go and see how the professionals handle themselves even though it's only practise. They approach it with a completely different mentality and I was surprised at how seriously they take it."

Sail away to pick up the basics

A BEAUTY spot is offering youngsters a chance to learn the basics of sailing.

Youth Sailing @ Chasewater's latest RYA Start Sailing sessions for Under 18s starts on July 6 and 7.

RYA Start Sailing is an introduction to sailing with sessions including starting, stopping and turning, launching and recovering, rigging and safety. All equipment, such as buoyancy aids and training boats are supplied. All that is needed is a change of clothes, old trainers and a towel.

The club meets on Saturdays from 9.30am to 1pm until mid-October.

The RYA Start Sailing sessions cost £65 per person, including two follow on Saturday morning sessions. It costs £5 per week to then carry on sailing at YSC, which includes the use of kit such as boat, wetsuits, spray tops, buoyancy aids.

For full details on how to sign up for the RYA Start Sailing Under-18 sessions, visit www.chasewe.org.uk.

Jack's the lad as youngsters visit HQ



Heath Hayes, in blue, are forced to defend against Wolverhampton Casuals

Wolverhampton Casuals 3 Heath Hayes under-15s 1

TWO Jack Clarke goals helped Wolverhampton Casuals to a victory over Heath Hayes at the FA's Staffordshire headquarters.

The two sides could potentially meet in the Midland Junior Premier League during 2013/14, but played out this friendly at the impressive George's Park, Burton.

Players were given a tour of the facilities before the game, played over five 15-minute periods.

Staged principally as a training course for future referees, the rival

Football

teams enjoyed a lively encounter on a lush playing surface. Casuals created the better chances in the early stages and had a goal ruled out for offside.

It took them until the second period for them to open the scoring through Dominic McSherry and they doubled the advantage during period three with an outstanding long-range effort from Clarke.

Hayes were not out of it and Josh Wilding produced a decent effort, while Jack Smith and Regan Smith

forced good saves from the goalkeeper before Osiris Hammond pulled a goal back.

Their joy was short-lived as Clarke hit another terrific long-ranger past the excellent Tony Allopp in the Hayes goal, giving the scoreline a more flattering outlook.

Hayes boss Jan Scott was proud of his team's efforts.

He said: "Everyone did great. They will never play on a pitch as good as that for a long time."

"It was a great experience and I thought we did very well, encouraging for next year," he added.

Leaders stay top with draw

**Cannock 3rds 123-7
Whitmore Reans 2nds 197-8
Losing draw Cannock**

LEAGUE leaders Cannock visited second placed Whitmore Reans and came away with a losing draw which was enough to keep them at the head of the table near the half way stage.

Cannock won the toss and elected to field and after a slow start Whitmore Reans posted 197-8 with Ali Abbas top scoring with 102.

Cannock's bowlers performed well without much luck, Kieran Squire taking 3-40 and Ryan Pearce 2-32.

On a difficult pitch and chasing a large total, Cannock were content to settle for the losing draw. With the pitch cutting up they batted carefully to close on 123-7 with Tom Bull (47) and Ian Slym (23) the top scorers.

**Cannock 2nds 203-6
Aston Manor 2nds 204-5
Aston won by 5 wickets**

Despite a sizeable total Cannock found themselves losing to Aston Manor by five wickets.

Batting first Cannock scored 203-6 with their first four batsmen Mike Stevenson (32) Adam Evans (59), Connor Shingler (40) and John Cooke (48) leading the way. In reply Aston Manor got off to a flying start and never looked back with Mohammed Agil scoring a match-winning century to give the visitors a five-wicket victory.

First-ever final ends with defeat

**Cannock & Rugeley District Schools League Cup Final
St Joseph's Hedgesford 0
Ridgeway 4**

ST JOSEPH'S fell short in their first-ever cup final against an excellent Ridgeway team.

A close first half ended with Ridgeway scoring right on half-time.

The second half continued to be an excellent encounter with both teams creating chances, including a brilliantly struck free-kick from Conor Williams that hit the crossbar.

Ridgeway scored three goals later in the second half to claim the trophy.

All St Joseph's players gave everything they had for the school and their efforts to reach the final made their teacher extremely proud.

St Joseph's Man of the Match was James Moore.

Sevens gain their second pot of silverware



The winning team, back from left, Luke Paggett, Matt Joss, Mitch Everall, Matt Williscroft, Barrie Newton, Jordan Wood, Michael Wilkes, Liam Morrison, Nathan Homer. Front from left, Jack Richards, Ceiron Griffin, Jake Graham, David Bagnall

RUGELEY Rugby Club's Sevens teams took home silverware for a second time in successive tournaments at the weekend.

The Trentham Sevens was the second event in the four tournament Staffordshire Sevens series.

Rugeley started slowly to the hosts before a narrow five point loss to Eccleshall.

They got form in the third match with a comfortable victory over Wednesbury, which saw them enter the plate competition for the knockout phase.

Strongly

Rugeley were now in full flow and started strongly against Cannock in the semi with Matthew Williscroft and Mithcell Everall punching holes up front an leaving gaps for the speed merchants Michael Wilkes and Ceiron Griffin to exploit.

A try from Jack Richards sealed the victory and set up a Plate Final against Trentham.

Rugeley spent much of the opening exchanges of the final stuck in their own half. Good tackling from Nathan Homer and Luke Paggett produced turnovers which Jake Graham and Michael Wilkes were able to exploit. Rugeley went into the inter-

val with a three try lead. Matt Joss was introduced to add some power to the midfield and he promptly forced his way though the Trentham defence and the ball went out to the wing. David Bagnall for the score.

Trentham then sparked into life and scored a try of their own. Barrie Newton and Martin de Ridder came of the bench to shore up the defence and between them engineered a choke tackle to stifle the Trentham attack and seal the Plate victory.

Barton under Needwood won the cup completion.

The Staffordshire Series moves on to Cannock

Rugby Club on Saturday July 13 where Rugeley are the defending champions.

Rugeley begin pre-season training this Saturday at 1.30pm at St Augustine's field on Station Road behind the church.

New and returning players are invited to attend.

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The life of Riley as he hammers 181 in win

AUSTRALIAN Riley Ward struck a sublime 181 from just 110 balls as Lichfield thumped Whittington by 226 runs in the Staffs Club Championship.

His innings, which included 11 sixes and 20 fours, helped his side rack up 345-7. Stuart得分 87.

Hosts Whittington suffered a dramatic collapse. They seemed comfortable at 107-3 with Tris Tanner (54) and Dan Hackett (30) well set, but superb bowling from James Liddiard and James Wilkinson saw them 119 all out. Wilkinson had 6-29.

Hawkins Sports remain top of the pile after a three-wicket win at home to Hammarwick.

Muhammad Fayaz was the star bowler for the hosts, claiming 5-49 as the visitors failed to capitalise on a decent start and finished on 152-9 from 50 overs. John Ackrill Jr made 50.

Todd Allen (4-49) and Danny King (3-24) kept Hammerwick in the game – but a fine 65 from Lee Evans proved crucial.

Imran Tariq claimed four wickets as Aldridge claimed a four-wicket triumph against Beacon.

Ponder hits 66 but total not enough

SWINDON'S fine run continued as they defeated Cannock and Rugeley by four wickets in an entertaining game in the Staffs Club Championship.

Batting first, visitors C&R looked to have posted a solid score as they made 222-7 from 49 overs, thanks in large part to Ryan Ponder's 66.

But the hosts made a mockery of the tough conditions as they raced to victory in just 33 overs thanks to an impressive team batting display.

Opener Paul Wale topped with 56 but five other players broke the 20 barrier.

Iqbal Masood claimed six wickets as Pelsall cruised past Old Wulfrunians Tettenhall at home by 10 wickets.

Masood finished with 6-22 as the visitors were bowled out for just 60.

Pelsall openers Paul Grainger (36) and Paul McPherson (20) then took just 10.3 overs to reach the meagre target.

Ray has last word to claim the title



Ray receiving his reward from Janice Gower

AN indoor bowler from Cannock won a top award after a week of games came down to his final wood.

The matches were held at the TLH Indoor Bowls Arena Torquay where England international Janice Gower was guest host of a week of bowls with players coming from all over to enjoy the midweek break.

The final game of the week was fought between Malcolm Morris of Ammanford, South Wales and Ray Smith of Cannock and literally came down to the last bowl of the last end.

Ray had only seven inches of room to make two shots and tie the game up. He steered his last bowl around a

Indoor bowls

short bowl and sat right next to the jack which meant the points for that individual game gave him the week's top reward of a crystal clock.

Surroundings

The week also included fun events and quizzes which gave the group a wonderful time, with also plenty of time to explore the facilities on site and take in the lovely surroundings of Torquay.

All the bowlers commented at the end of the week on how they enjoyed

the whole event and in particular the disabled bowlers congratulated TLH on the way they catered for them.

The event proved the game is a sport for all with able-bodied, disabled and wheelchair players all enjoying the camaraderie of the week.

Next year's week break will be from June 9-13 and TLH have managed to keep the price at the same level as this year.

Bookings are already going well for the event.

For further information or to join the break contact Terri Kennard on 01803 400108.

Pitmen on the ball for involving youngsters

HEDNESFORD Town FC are looking for youngsters to be ball boys and girls on a regular basis for their home fixtures next season.

The move follows a successful trial during 2012/13.

The Keys Park outfit, promoted to the Conference North through the play-offs, are keen to invite any local clubs or primary school teams to nominate a fixture where up to 10 of their players can be ball boys/girls for the day.

Club secretary Terry McMahon said the scheme would become an integral part of the club.

He said: "The trial last season worked well and we feel that, as a club, we can offer local children the opportunity to experience non-league football perhaps for the first time."

The itinerary for the day includes giving the players a guard of honour as they enter the pitch, a photo opportunity in front of the main stand, a half-time penalty shoot-out and hot chocolate and biscuits.

To register, contact Club Press officer, Chris Brewerton, on chrisbrewerton@hotmail.co.uk or 07880 319739.

Bulldogs in fightback for victory

Birmingham Bulldogs 28
Coventry Bears A 22

BIRMINGHAM Bulldogs Rugby League FC came into this match on the back of two successive defeats, and after the opening quarter of an hour, a third loss loomed.

But Brum fought back well and held on for a memorable win.

Playing up the slope, Birmingham grabbed possession from the off, but it was Bears who opened the scoring after three minutes when right wing Chris Dixon crossed in the corner.

Coventry extended their lead when Greg Moore touched down and scrum half George Rea added the goal.

Bulldogs cut the gap when left-winger Jermaine Bernard snaffled an up-and-under and cut in for a try that stand-off Sam Edgar converted.

Mo Edgar also joined the try scorers' list, adding the extra points. Connor Slater was Coventry's Mom.

Murad rips into batting for Penk's crushing win

Penkridge CC 1st XI -165 -8 Kings Heath CC 1st XI - 72

Penkridge won by 93 runs

PENKRIDGE first team maintained their position at the top of the league as they took maximum points in a rain-affected game at Kings Heath.

After losing the toss, Penkridge made a slow start in difficult batting conditions but good contributions from Ronnie Hassan (36) and Attiq Chisthi (42) enabled them to post a respectable 165 for 8 in 42 overs. In reply, Kings Heath were soon in disarray as Muhammad Murad (6-29) once again ripped through the opposition batting order as they were dismissed for just 72 for a 93-run victory.

Stourbridge 2nd XI 230-5

Penkridge 2nd XI 231-3

Penkridge won by 7 wickets

The 2nd returned to winning ways with an impressive victory over Stourbridge 2nd in another rain-affected match.

After winning the toss and electing to bowl, Penkridge restricted Stourbridge's scoring with Jon Price bowling a misery spell of 1-34 off his 15.

Youngest Shirjeel Mir (2-2) also bowled well but some late big hitting allowed Stourbridge to post 230-5.

The rain then came and Penkridge's innings was reduced to just only had 34 overs with 157 needed for the winning draw.

However Penkridge had no interest in the draw and went out all guns blazing scoring 221-6. They and Martin Porter showed late resistance as Penk were dismissed for 136.

Cricket

between Usman Khan (58 no) and the explosive Any Lawson (92no off 41 balls) led Penk to a fantastic seven-wicket win in just 28 overs.

Penkridge 3rd XI 189

Coseley 1st XI 191-1

Coseley won by 9 wickets

Penkridge thirds went down to Coseley 1sts in a one-sided affair. After losing the toss, Penkridge made steady progress but their batsmen failed to make any significant scores as they were dismissed for 189 with Steve Jones (29) and KK Sadiq (38). Coseley cruised to victory in the 35th over for the loss of one wicket.

Wrightwick & Finchfield 3rd XI 221

Penkridge 4th XI 136

W&F won by 86 runs

Penkridge fourths lost their first game of the season as they went down by 84 runs to Wrightwick 3rds. Penk's Gaz Oliver (2-29) and Tom Porter (2-26) were the pick of the bowlers as Wrightwick hit 221-6. They and Martin Porter showed late resistance as Penk were dismissed for 136.

Drivers rally to take part in Midsummers event



Stafford's Ron Aiken and Brian Neale, of Heath Hayes who were the best CDCC crew

ON Midsummer weekend Cannock and District Car Club staged a new racing event - Rally Mini Midlands, replacing the Rally of the Midlands.

More than 60 teams made the start line at the MIRA test centre, Nuneaton. A top 10 consisted of four Metro 6R4, four-wheel drive cars, a Darrion T9, Mitsubishi Evo 4 and four versions of Ford Escorts, an RS, MK1, MK2 and a Cosworth.

Heading the field was MIRA expert Tom Morris and Colin Harkness followed by Robert Lowe and Stephen Shephard and the eventual winners Simon Mauger and Brian Cammack,

all in Metro 6R4s. Mauger swapped his trusty MK2 Escort for a 6R4.

The organising club put out 14 cars. Club president Ron Aiken (Stafford) teamed up with co-driver Brian Neale, of Hednesford, in their Mainline Haulage backed MK1 Escort.

At 11 were new members Stephen Tilburn and Jack Benjamin. Escort RS2000 followed at 12 by Brownhills driver Martin Payton and young co-driver Matt Evans, from Tamworth in a Mitsubishi Evo 6. After six drives Mauger had a 12 second lead. The event was curtailed to a final 'sting in the tail' stage and the final outcome

saw Mauger and Cammack 20-second winners over Morris and Harkness with the Darrion T9 crew David Tinn and Marc Fowler in third place.

Cannock crews results: Third overall, class D, car 11, Darrion T9: David Tinn and Mark Fowler 11 11, 48s. Seventh, second class D, car 10, 68s. MK1: Peter Attiq and Steve Jones 10 43, 15th, fourth class D, car 24, Sierra Cosworth, Duncan Waite and Keith Garton - 1-18-21, 17th, fifth class D, car 12, Mitsubishi Evo 6: Martin Payton and Matt Evans - 1-18-28, 19th, seventh class C, car 31, Peugeot 205: James Nicholls and Kevin Robinson - 1-18-53, second class D, car 28, Escort MK2: Ben Gurnell and Dan Dicocci - 1-20-09, 26th, fifth class B, car 4, Peugeot 205GTI: Kevin Harbour and Dave Tortoiselli - 1-21-58, 29th, seventh class D, car 43, BMW M3 Maxi GP: A: Jon Fox and Jane Fox - 1-22-45.

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Wheel deal

Rally crews take part in new event
Page 108

e-mail: chronsport@expressandstar.co.uk

Brandy is poised to sign deal with rivals

FEBIAN BRANDY was set to walk out on a new deal at Walsall and join Sheffield United.

The 24-year-old forward is reported to be undergoing a medical at the Blades after agreeing a three-year deal, as one of the biggest Saddlers sagas of the summer appeared to be nearing a conclusion.

Walsall could be hit by a double blow as huge doubts still remain over the future of 20-goal striker Will Grigg.

Neither Grigg nor Brandy, whose contracts expire next week, were present at Essington as the Saddlers began pre-season training.

Both have been the subject of continued speculation in recent months as talks over new deals stalled and Brandy has now decided his future lies away from the Banks's.

Despite telling boss Dean Smith he wanted to play Championship football, the former Manchester United trainee has opted to remain in League One with the Blades.

It is a move bound to disappoint Smith along with Saddlers supporters, who had hoped Brandy would show more loyalty after enjoying a career revival last season, scoring seven goals in 37 appearances.

And with Grigg's future also in serious doubt, Smith faces the prospect of being left short of strikers.

Scholars to face Wolves

CHASETOWN have revealed their showpiece friendly fixtures as they look to bounce back from play-off woes.

They will host Wolves, Walsall and Kidderminster in a bumper pre-season programme as they aim for promotion from the Northern Premier League First Division South.

The Scholars lost in the play-offs last season and will host Walsall on July 24, Harriers three days later and Wolves on August 2.

Craig Harris' men will also play Wolverhampton Casuals on July 20 and Rushen on August 6. They go to Hednesford on July 30.

Harris said: "It gives everyone a buzz, when Wolves come and we are looking forward to it."

Harris also revealed he has almost finalised his squad for pre-season with the majority agreeing to return.

Sponsor helps club to ring in the changes



From left, assistant coach Andy Peach, MD of James Evans Financial Services Chris Evans, Great Wyrley Sports & Social Club steward Simon Barnes, club president Scott Pearce and coach Peter Hickenbottom

GREAT WYRLEY ABC are ringing the changes thanks to the generosity of their sponsor. James Evans Financial Services has paid for a new boxing ring for their gym.

Coach Peter Hickenbottom said: "Chris Evans, managing director of James Evans Financial Services, started training down the gym last year and became our sponsor almost immediately."

"I said we didn't want a cash sponsor but would welcome any equipment Chris would care to get us. To say he has been generous is an understatement."

Boxing

Before the exhibition show two weeks ago, Chris and I discussed the gym and I said I would like to use the money raised to buy a new sparring ring.

"Chris said he would buy it for the club and was on the phone to Unibox ring hire/suppliers and arranged for them to come over and measure up.

"Last week they came over and installed it. I cannot thank Chris and James Evans Financial Services enough, especially in these hard times,

a marvellous gesture, greatly appreciated by me, assistant coach Andy and everyone who uses the gym.

"The gym now has two rings after moving the old one in the back room. It was much needed, considering the numbers we are getting down here and gives the gym a more professional look.

"Fourteen and a half years the club has been running now," said Pete. "And hopefully the club is now moving on to the next level and next season should be very exciting indeed with everyone in the gym already looking forward to the new season."

Ellie sets herself new goal

PARALYMPIC hero Ellie Simmonds has insisted she must move on from London 2012 as she targeted World Championship glory.

The Walsall star is ready for the British Gas Swimming Championships – a warm-up for the IPC World Championships in Montreal in August.

She has already qualified for Canada after April's British International Disability Swimming Championships.

And, almost a year after she won double gold at the Paralympics, Simmonds is focused on the future.

"We do need to move on; it's nice to have people talking about it as it brings some amazing memories back and it shows the public still think about London," said the 18-year-old.

"After London I was here, there and everywhere."

"I wasn't in my normal routine and when I did get back into it, it was suddenly a bit boring. Each week I was doing something different, something amazing – but it can't be like that all the time, you have to get back into the routine."

She admitted she has used the world championship as motivation after struggling

Purkiss signs to help bring cheer

DEFENDER Ben Purkiss has handed Walsall a timely boost by committing his immediate future to them.

With the Saddlers having lost forward Febian Brandy to Sheffield United and with the future of striker Will Grigg still very much in doubt, right-back Purkiss has given them something to cheer about by penning a new one-year deal.

The Chronicle, a Midland News Association Ltd publication, printed by the company at Ketley, Telford. Thursday, June 27, 2013.

FRIENDLIES IN THE SUN FOR SADDLERS

WALSALL will prepare for the new League One campaign in the sun after announcing an unprecedented pre-season tour to Trinidad and Tobago.

Dean Smith's men will spend a week on the Antilles islands, where they will play three matches against local opposition.

The Saddlers' longest trip of the pre-season looked set to be the July 16 journey to Derbyshire outfit Alfreton Town – but they will now fly 4,500 miles when the tour begins next Wednesday, July 3.

Smith's side have been invited by Central FC, a TT Pro League outfit founded by former Dundee and Gillingham player Brent Sancho and currently managed by former England international Terry Fenwick. The club's operations director Kevin Harrison is a friend of the Saddlers manager.

"This is a fantastic opportunity for the club," said Smith.

"We had been looking for somewhere to go on tour since the end of last season and this fits in perfectly with our schedule."

"A mutual friend put Kevin Harrison, who I know from my time at Leyton Orient, when he worked for the PFA, and who is also involved with the Football Players' Association of Trinidad and Tobago, in touch with me and it has gone from there."

Experience

"We will take part in three games and also get involved with the local community, so it's going to be a really productive and worthwhile seven days."

"As good as our training ground is, it's always nice to be able to get away and spend some time in different surroundings."

"This experience is going to be extremely beneficial to us and hopefully those people that we meet along the way."

Manager Dean Smith

Walsall will play a Trinidad and Tobago XI, while the blue-riband clash is against hosts Central FC who they meet at the Ato Bolden Stadium in Couva on July 9.

Whilst on the islands the Saddlers will also undertake coaching within the community.

Cup winners search for new season backers



Chase United Under-11s are looking for a sponsor for next season when they join the Midland and Junior League

YOUNG footballers from Cannock

are looking for a sponsor to kick off

their new season.

Chase United's Under-11s are

appealing for local businesses to

sponsor its kit and tracksuits.

The team, who train at St Peter's C

of E Primary School, Hednesford,

recently joined Hednesford Town

Football Club's youth development

programme and will soon join the Midland Junior Premier League. In May they beat Hednesford Town 5-2

at Wolverhampton's Molineux Stadium to win the Jimmy Mullen Cup.

Manager Stuart Lake, who played

in centre-midfield for Hednesford

Town for 10 years, said: "We are really

proud of the boys. It was a fantastic

achievement to win the cup and they

performed excellently. We just want them to do as well as they can going forward. We know there will be some really good sides in the league but hopefully the boys can continue to improve and deliver."

Mr Lake, whose son Louis plays for the team, thanked his assistant, Pete Wilkinson. Anyone potential sponsor should call Mr Lake on 07540412234.

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